

Ministers may order ballot of Civil Servants if unions reject pay offer

By David Felton
Labour Correspondent

Ministers are considering ordering a ballot of the 500,000 white collar Civil Servants to ascertain whether the union leaders who are set to reject the Treasury's proposals for a long-term pay system reflect the views of their members.

A decision on whether to hold the ballot is some way off but the move is a reflection of the Government's determination to establish a settled pay system for the Civil Service so as to act as a brake on pay unrest by Whitehall staff.

The Treasury told the unions yesterday that it had sanctioned a pay information survey by the Office of Manpower Economics, in preparation for next spring's wage negotiations, but gave a warning that the results of the survey will not be made available to the unions unless they accept the long-term system.

On present evidence the unions seem set on rejecting the system, which includes an element of comparability with salaries paid outside the Civil Service and restricted access to arbitration, although the key decisions will be taken at special conferences during the next two months.

However, the Government is understood to favour a two-pronged strategy to prevent a return to the pattern in the previous years of fragmented bargaining, involving a ballot of all staff or deals with individual unions with the negotiations based on elements of the Treasury's pay proposals.

A union decision on accept-

Benefit offices close for day

At least 51 Department of Health and Social Security benefit offices in London and the South-east were closed yesterday because of a one-day strike called by Civil Service unions in protest against shortages in the offices.

The unions said last night that of the 86 local offices in south London and an area stretching from Kent to Hampshire, 70 were closed to the public.

Between 4,500 and 5,000 Civil Servants were said to be on strike but the department said that only 51 offices were closed and the remainder open to the public. The department said it was prepared to discuss the claim for extra staff.

The action has been taken as part of a campaign by the unions to persuade the Government to increase staffing at the local offices by 15,000.

A similar one-day strike is planned for next month in north London and the northern Home Counties and there have also been suggestions of walk-outs in Scottish benefit offices.

ance of the proposed system rests with the Council of Civil Service Unions, an umbrella body for the eight unions, and a two-thirds majority of the 63 possible votes available would be required to win approval.

The Government will consider going over the heads of the council if there is an overall majority which fails to reach the

necessary two-thirds. Senior government officials also point out that 20 per cent of the 500,000 white collar staff do not belong to any union.

Each union is adopting a different method for consulting its members but the outcome will rest with the largest union, the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA), whose right-wing leadership voted by 14 to 11 to urge its members to back the proposals.

The CPSA is about to launch a campaign among its 140,000 membership ending with a special conference in January when a final decision will be taken. The conference is usually dominated by left wingers and a split in the right-wing indicates that Mr Alistair Graham, the moderate general secretary, will have difficulty persuading the conference to accept the Treasury plan.

The only other union whose executive has accepted the Treasury's proposal is the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, but the Government is hoping that other unions, at the moment hostile, will have a change of heart.

A decision by the CPSA to accept the deal would probably be sufficient to trigger a Treasury decision to ballot the whole Civil Service.

The unions are urgently collecting data to support a joint pay claim, in preparation for rejection of the system, so as to avoid a repeat of this year's negotiations with each union submitting individual claims and holding separate negotiations.



Central figures at Liverpool City Council's finance committee meeting yesterday (from left): Mr Tony Byrne, finance chairman, Mr Derek Hatton, deputy leader, and Mr Tony Mulhearn, president of the Liverpool Labour Party.

Liverpool budget wins support

By Robin Young

Liverpool City Council's finance committee yesterday approved the compromise budget plans to avert bankruptcy accepted by the city's Labour party. The package now goes to the full council for ratification on Friday.

The key to the proposals is the capitalization of £23.4 million in housing repair and maintenance money. It will be used to pay for jobs and services until the end of the year, and will be made up with a loan from a consortium of Swiss banks.

The loan has been agreed with the bankers subject to three conditions: that the council undertakes to act lawfully in future, reconciles its income and expenditure in line with the terms of reference of the Stonefort report, and obtains Department of the Environment approval.

The package also includes taking up the offer of £3 million in unused loan sanctions from other Labour-controlled local authorities, and cuts of £3 million in Liverpool's expenditure.

Mr Tony Byrne, Liverpool's left-wing finance chairman, called on the Department of the Environment to immediately

indicate its support for the agreement, and brushed aside Conservative group demands that he should resign.

Mr Chris Hallows, the Conservative group leader on the council, claimed that Mr Byrne had made it "a point of principle" that he would never accept capitalization, which the Tories had been demanding for months.

Mr Hallows said: "By your actions over the last few months you have drained the resources of this city and the confidence and will of the people. The morale within the corporation workforce has sunk to an absolutely all-time low". He said attracting investment to Liverpool had become impossible.

Mr Byrne replied that the proposed scheme meant the city's capital programmes would not be affected. "If there is a risk to the capital programme as a result of this, I won't need you to call on me to resign, because we will all be gone," he said.

Mr Derek Hatton, the deputy Labour leader, described the compromise as "nothing but a setback", involving no rent or rate increases and no cuts in the housing programme. The set-

back was "entirely due to the Tory Government, the Liberal administration before us and above all the treachery of the Labour national leadership and some trade union members".

Councillor Tony Mulhearn, the Liverpool Labour president, warned that the city would find itself in the same position next year unless a massive campaign could ensure that extra Government resources were brought to Liverpool.

Sir Trevor Jones, the Liberal leader, claimed the budget would mean cuts of £9.75 million over a full year, the £3 million only covering the period until April.

Mr Michael Reddington, the city treasurer, told the committee that the council still had to pay off between £40 million and £50 million in debt repayments from existing loans by the end of this financial year.

● Mr John Forrester, the moderate Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent North for 19 years, who lost a re-election contest to Mrs Joan Walley, a member of the rebel Lambeth Council in London, said yesterday that Militant Tendency was jeopardising Labour's chances at the next election.

TUC and Labour to push for pay accord

By Our Labour Editor

The TUC and Labour Party are to begin discussions on pay in earnest in the hope of drawing up a joint document for distribution to union conferences next spring.

The plans to hasten the process of outlining an accord covering "fair wages, including a national minimum wage" were agreed at a meeting of the TUC Labour Liaison Committee yesterday, attended by Mr Neil Kinnock, the party leader, and Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Chancellor.

Although the terse phraseology in a document presented yesterday to the committee makes no mention of the delicate topic of incomes policy, moderates on the TUC general council are likely to see the

move as a step in the direction of a more general agreement on pay.

The process has been given a boost by the Labour Party conference's commitment to a statutory minimum wage.

A study by the Policy Studies Institute gives a warning that continued high unemployment could mean a sharp change in "the present essentially positive trade-union attitudes" to new technology.

In a survey of factories using new technology, only 7 per cent reported opposition from the shop floor, or from other unions, to be "a major obstacle". Chips and Jobs (PSI, 100 Park Village, East London, NW1 3SR, £8.95).

Success for anti-cancer experiment

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

An experimental vaccine has succeeded in protecting monkeys against a virus that is known to cause two types of malignant tumours in people. The achievement comes after 10 years of research by a team at Bristol University medical school working with Professor Tony Epstein.

A systematic search for a vaccine was mounted after the original isolation of the virus, named Epstein-Barr virus for the professor in the department of pathology at Bristol, who discovered it. The virus, one of the five human herpes viruses, was found in cultures of cells obtained from two types of tumours: one known as Burkitt's lymphoma and the other a type of cancer of the nose.

Burkitt's lymphoma is a painful swelling of the lymph glands and neck glands, from which thousands of children in Africa, China and South-east Asia die annually. The type of nose cancer involved is also most common in South-east Asia.

This first demonstration of a vaccine that can prevent a cancer is reported by the scientists in a paper in the latest issue of *Nature*.

Thames Water sets 3% rise

Thames Water, largest of the 10 authorities that supply most of the drinking water in England and Wales, decided yesterday to raise charges by 3 per cent next year.

That is the increase that Thames wanted this year until the Government forced it to push charges up by 10 per cent in order to meet financial targets.

MPs to question ending TB jabs

Health ministers are to be questioned by MPs on proposals to halt the routine vaccination of school children against tuberculosis by 1990.

● The number of children infected in a Devon outbreak last year, referred to in *The Times* yesterday, should have read 32, not 332.

Unionist pressure on Powell to resign

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Pressure is mounting on Mr Enoch Powell to give a written undertaking before the start of today's House of Commons debate on the Anglo-Irish agreement that he will resign his Westminster seat and join 14 colleagues in fighting by-elections next year.

The leadership of the Official Unionist Party hopes that their MP for Down South will quickly end damaging speculations about his future political intentions; yesterday, however, they were in the embarrassing position of being unable to say whether he would support them.

Mr Powell's failure to appear with 14 other Unionist MPs at a "loyalist" rally in Belfast at the weekend and to sign a declaration promising that he would resign has angered and irritated many in the party who consider his absence to have undermined what was intended as a display of Unionist unity.

His position, and the suspicion that he is less than wholehearted about the strategy of resigning seats at Westminster to fight by-elections early next year, has tended to overshadow the impact of the rally, and in private there is undisguised hostility towards him. One Unionist politician said: "The attention is focusing on him and his position to the detriment of our cause. His behaviour has been appalling".

Yesterday Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionist Party, was unable to give a clear answer when asked three times if he was confident he could rely on the support of Mr Powell, an Official Unionist MP for 11 years. Mr Molyneux

refused to pre-judge what Mr Powell might say when invited to resign his seat, but added: "When a party leader issues an invitation we would always hope that the invitation would be accepted. I would have been disappointed if any of my other colleagues had refused to resign their seat."

Mr Molyneux said he hoped to see Mr Powell, who has a majority of only 348, before the start of this afternoon's debate so he could clarify his colleague's position and ask him to sign the declaration.

As Mr Molyneux became increasingly irritated at the questioning in Belfast, he left to his deputy Mr Harold McCusker, Official Unionist MP for Upper Bann, to increase the pressure on his parliamentary colleagues by saying: "In 11 years Mr Powell has been one of the most loyal members of the Parliamentary party. I don't think he has deviated from the decisions of that Parliamentary party in the 11 years."

"I take his word as his bond when he said last week that that was one of the fundamental principles guiding his membership of our parliamentary party, and that he would take seriously the invitation extended to him and maintain the solidarity he has shown during his term at Westminster."

When asked what might be in Mr Powell's mind, Mr McCusker replied: "Enoch Powell's mind is one of those few minds that one has not had an opportunity to reach."

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Better control of hospital projects

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Health authorities' control over big hospital building projects has improved markedly in the past five years, according to the National Health Service annual report published yesterday.

A sample of 36 building projects, each costing more than £5 million and completed by 1984, shows that the average cost over-run is down to about 1.7 per cent, or £100,000 and on average they were completed six weeks late.

A similar sample of pre-1980 schemes showed the average cost over-run in today's prices was closer to £700,000, or 11.6 per cent, while on average the schemes were completed more than 10 months late.

The report says much of the credit is due to the "nucleus" hospital design, a standardized design that allows for later expansion, which has "largely eliminated the escalating costs of late completion which have caused frequent problems in the past". Sixteen nucleus hospitals have been completed, with 32 more at tender or construction stage.

In the past five years NHS capital spending has produced 11,500 new hospital beds, 189 new operating theatres, 122 X-ray rooms, 27 accident and emergency departments and 25 new out-patient departments.

The Health Service in England: Annual Report 1985 (Stationery Office, £6.20).

How long before the milkround turns sour?

There's one thing a spell at University always guarantees. Plenty of 'milkround' visits from company executives.

Each and every one of them has well-paid jobs to offer.

But before signing on the dotted line, think very carefully.

Will the promises turn out to be empty? Will the job suit your particular abilities and skills?

These are not the sort of questions you can answer in 3 minutes. So why not take 3 years to decide your future - as an Army Officer?

On completion of your training at Sandhurst you will be commissioned as a Lieutenant earning £9,679.

Naturally you will learn how to command and care for a group of bright young soldiers and to handle our sophisticated weapons and equipment.

And if you are posted abroad at short

notice to lead soldiers in unfamiliar surroundings you'd have to cope.

No wonder many leading industrialists regard an Army Commission as the best management training a young man or woman can have.

Whether you make the Army your long-term career or leave earlier is up to you.

Either way it promises not to sour your future. Quite the opposite in fact. And you'll gain unrivalled executive training at our expense.

So if you need a little more time to decide, see your Careers Staff and pick up an Introduction Form.

Through this we will arrange for a Liaison Officer to see you at your University, Polytechnic, or College of Higher Education.

Army Officer

SDP proposes £1,410m scheme to train young

A plan to end full-time employment for 16 and 17 year olds was proposed yesterday by the Social Democratic Party.

The proposals, which could cost up to £1,410 million in 1988, would not only give a new deal to those aged between 16 and 19 but would also make some extra jobs available for the older unemployed. Cutting the working week for 16 and 17 year olds by two days would mean more work for older people looking for jobs, the SDP says.

The proposals are contained in a new SDP discussion Green

Paper, *Tertiary Education For All*, which sets out the party's strategy for the education and training of 16 to 19 year olds. It draws attention to the falling level of skill training and proposes an immediate £200 million cash programme to reverse the decline.

The SDP's long term programme includes: a new legal obligation on employers to release 16 to 17 year olds for two days a week; government support for shared "starter jobs" and a "young student grant" paid direct to full-time 16-19 students.

Chauffeur's abortion claim 'a lie'

The claim by Anthony Howard, former chauffeur of the millionaire, Mrs Soraya Khashoggi, that she had an abortion after becoming pregnant by him was untrue, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr John Aspinall, for the prosecution, was making his final speech in the trial of Mr Howard, aged 39, who is accused of stealing more than 400 items worth £100,000 from Mrs Khashoggi.

Mr Howard claims he had an affair with Mrs Khashoggi and that she gave him the property, as a gift, for safekeeping or for repair.

Referring to Mr Howard's suggestion that the three-times married Mrs Khashoggi, aged 44, had an abortion, Mr Aspinall said she had not been given the chance to deal with the claim during her evidence.

"Do you think anybody, if what he is describing had occurred, would have pursued a lying allegation of theft, knowing he would have that sort of information to throw at her?"

Mr Aspinall told the jury to reject any suggestion that Mrs Khashoggi had any reason, through love or affection, to have given Mr Howard the property.

Both Mr Aspinall and Mr Michael Beckman, QC, for the defence, told the jury that someone in the case was telling a pack of lies.

The hearing continues today.

Walkout over GLC abolition

Fifty members of the National and Local Government Officers Association at the Greater London Council walked out yesterday because one was told to take on work related to next year's abolition of the Labour-led council.

A union spokesman said that the member had been told to work for a council committee preparing to make way for a new board of London borough councillors which will take over GLC management of the capital's fire brigade. The GLC would not comment.

Fowler appeal on lodging decision

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, yesterday launched an appeal against the High Court's ruling in July that the Government's bed and breakfast regulation for the unemployed are unlawful.

Under the regulations new lower limits were set on payments for bed and breakfast accommodation, and many young people aged under 26 were forced to move on every two to eight weeks.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$20, Belgium 8.00, Canada \$20, Denmark 12.00, France 12.00, Germany 12.00, Greece 12.00, Hong Kong \$20, India 12.00, Italy 12.00, Japan 12.00, Korea 12.00, Malaysia 12.00, Mexico 12.00, New Zealand 12.00, Norway 12.00, Pakistan 12.00, Portugal 12.00, Singapore 12.00, South Africa 12.00, Spain 12.00, Sweden 12.00, Switzerland 12.00, Taiwan 12.00, Thailand 12.00, Turkey 12.00, USA \$20, West Germany 12.00, Yugoslavia 12.00.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

It ought in theory to be one of the great parliamentary occasions when the House of Commons debates the Northern Ireland agreement today and tomorrow. Here is the opportunity for MPs to pronounce on an ingenious but controversial initiative which is intended to provide a peaceful solution to the United Kingdom's greatest internal crisis for more than half a century.

Yet it will in practice be a debate whose outcome is certain but will settle nothing. The Government will win an overwhelming majority in the vote and may not even be pressed hard in debate.

The main assault will come from the Ulster Unionists, who command neither the ear nor the sympathy of the House. They will have even fewer friends if the tone is set for them by the Rev Ian Paisley's ranting. Apart from them, there will be a dozen or so Conservative dissidents, who fear that Mrs Thatcher is selling out the Protestants, and possibly a few Labour members who do not believe that she is going far enough to please the Roman Catholics.

The threat to this agreement does not, however, lie in Westminster. The farther one gets away from Northern Ireland itself the better it looks.

Statesmanlike act welcomed

I was in Los Angeles when it was announced that there can be no doubt that throughout the United States it was welcomed as an act of statesmanship. With London and Dublin marching in step, Northern Ireland now presents less of an international embarrassment for Britain than at any time since the collapse of power-sharing in 1974.

Nor does the threat lie in the Irish Republic at this stage. The reaction there has been so favourable that the leader of the opposition, Mr Charles Haughey, has modified his criticism.

It is on the ground in Northern Ireland that this is a high risk operation. It depends for its success on being interpreted in different ways by the two communities, with the Catholics accepting the maximalist and the Protestants the minimalist interpretation.

The Catholics need to believe that the joint conference of British and Irish ministers with its secretariat will be more than a purely consultative arrangement and that it marks the start of a process that could lead to the reunification of Ireland. The Protestants need to be persuaded that this will be no more than a consultative arrangement, and that the agreement marks a new readiness on the part of the republic to accept the enduring reality of partition.

The risk is that the two communities may draw precisely the reverse conclusions. The Catholics may have been reassured by the commitment of the Dublin government, the enthusiasm of the SDLP and the outrage of the Protestants. It is this sense of outrage which presents the immediate challenge.

Mrs Thatcher must have allowed for this, and her determination in facing down opposition is beyond question. But in the long run Northern Ireland cannot be stable without at least the acquiescence of the majority community.

Double dilemma for Government

There is a double dilemma here. For the British Government to calm Protestant fears without modifying the scheme as to upset the Catholics. For the Ulster Unionists it is how to express their opposition so forcibly as to make the Government change course without at the same time destroying their own position.

They plan to have their MPs resign their seats at the beginning of January so as to force a series of by-elections. But even if they were all then to enjoy a triumph that would not be enough to shake Mrs Thatcher's resolve.

The Unionists might resolve their dilemma by coming to terms with the SDLP on a new executive and assembly for Northern Ireland. That would render the joint ministerial conference superfluous. But they do not seem to be thinking along these lines.

Perhaps the withdrawal of Protestant consent - with the threat of rent, rates and possibly a tax strike - could make Northern Ireland ungovernable. In the background there lurks the shadow of another workers' strike and even violence. But the very measures that might force Mrs Thatcher's hand would be precisely those which would disgust British opinion with the Northern Irish connection altogether.

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Most coaches go slower than speed limits demand, survey finds

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Up to 30 per cent of coaches on dual carriageways and 25 per cent on motorways exceeded the speed limit during Department of Transport surveys last year.

The figures support last month's action by the Government after the M4 coach crash, in which 13 people died when

compulsory speed governors were ordered to be fitted in an effort to stop coaches speeding. However, according to the latest department figures, most coaches were travelling well below the maximum speed. On dual carriageways, where the limit is 60 mph, coach speeds averaged 52.54 mph; on motorways, where the limit is 70 mph,

the average speed was 63.64 mph.

Road casualties increased slightly in 1984 after several years of decline, with deaths up 3 per cent to 5,569, serious injuries up 3 per cent to 73,000, and minor injuries up 5 per cent to 245,000. The 10-year trend, which fell from 154 casualties per 100 kilometres in 1974 to 115 in 1983, rose a point to 116 last year. Preliminary results suggest it has started to fall again in 1985.

Pedestrian deaths in 1984 were 29 per cent down over the decade, at 1,368, but motorcycle deaths were 21 per cent up at 967.

Cyclists killed were 22 per cent up at 343, although cycle traffic had risen 50 per cent during the period. Car occupants killed were 20 per cent down at 2,179, in spite of a 35 per cent rise in car traffic.

The report also showed that road accidents in Britain cost £2.65 million in 1984, £90 million up on 1983 while accidents to learner motorcyclists have dropped 90 per cent since they were restricted to small 125cc machines.

Road accidents account for 49 per cent of Britain's accidental deaths, and 78 per cent of those to people aged between 15 to 19, and alcohol is associated with one in four people killed on the road.

Britain had fewer road deaths than most other countries in 1983, only Norway, Sweden and Japan were better. But for pedestrians, Britain's record was not so good, with lower death rates in 11 other countries.

The dead were: Stephen Eke, aged 14, Duncan Halstead, aged 13, Matthew Lasky, aged 14, Ann Morris, aged 13, Jacqueline Francis, aged 17, Hughes, of Fittwick, Bedfordshire, was killed, and Miss Barbara Ericsson, 26, of St Albans.

Teacher's fight to control crash coach

A coach carrying a party of British school children ran out of control and crashed on a French road, killing seven people on board after the driver suffered a stroke at the wheel, an inquiry has found yesterday.

Mr Ian Laycock, a school teacher, grabbed the steering wheel and fought desperately to control the vehicle as it gathered speed and careered from one side of the road to the other, but he could not prevent it from tipping on to its roof, the inquest jury at St Albans, Hertfordshire, was told.

Verdicts of accidental death were returned on all seven victims.

The crash occurred last May 29 just before midday on Route 110 near Ledignan in the south of France.

The coach driver, Mr Harry Hughes, aged 39, was taking a party of 45 passengers, including pupils and teachers, from two St Albans schools, Verulam and Beaumont, from a holiday centre. Parents and relatives of those who died sat at the back

of the courtroom as the St Albans Coroner, Dr Arnold Mendoza, read to the jury a report from the French authorities.

He said that according to the French authorities a safety barrier by the side of the road "acted like a slide" and prevented the vehicle from falling into a stream after the driver had become unwell.

But, Dr Mendoza continued, "in spite of the actions of one of the passengers, Ian Laycock, the coach continued for a distance of 40 metres".

He said the coach struck the wall of a culvert causing it to swing round, then it turned over and came to rest on its roof.

Some passengers scrambled out, but others remained trapped in the vehicle. Thirty-nine people were injured.

The dead were: Stephen Eke, aged 14, Duncan Halstead, aged 13, Matthew Lasky, aged 14, Ann Morris, aged 13, Jacqueline Francis, aged 17, Hughes, of Fittwick, Bedfordshire, was killed, and Miss Barbara Ericsson, 26, of St Albans.

Egg board to be wound up

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Eggs Authority is to be wound up after a 15-year existence, Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, told the Commons yesterday.

The authority was established under the Agriculture Act 1970, charged with improving the marketing of eggs through advertising, market intelligence and research and development. It is, or was, one of a number of statutory marketing organisations, of which the best known is the Milk Marketing Board and the newest Food from Britain.

The Government announced last February that it was to review the usefulness of the Eggs Authority, and established a committee which reported in July. Comments on the report were then invited from interested organisations.

Mr Jopling said yesterday that the Government had taken "careful note" of the representations received. "We do not consider we would be justified in retaining a statutory authority which does not command widespread support from the industry concerned", he added.

Other statutory boards are responsible for the marketing of cereals, sugar, potatoes, wool, apples and pears, and hops. None is thought to be under immediate threat, although the Potato Marketing Board has for some time been at loggerheads with a number of dissident producers.

Bomb blast at Iran legation

An Iranian woman was slightly injured yesterday when a bomb hidden in a parcel erupted at the Iranian consulate in Kensington, west London. The woman, a clerk, received injuries to her hand.

The device was delivered in morning mail to the consulate in Kensington Court.

Inquiry delayed

An inquiry into a head-on train crash earlier this month on the London to Brighton line at Haywards Heath, due to open today, has been postponed because one of the train drivers involved is unwell, the Department of Transport said yesterday.

Siege ends

A siege at a gun and tackle shop in Edinburgh ended yesterday after seven hours when a man gave himself up to the police. He was suffering from mild hypothermia and was taken to hospital.

Berlioz tops ITV Christmas list

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

ITV's Christmas schedules include a dramatization by Anthony Burgess of Berlioz's Christmas oratorio, *L'Enfance du Christ*, and the silver jubilee of the popular soap opera, *Coronation Street*, the commercial channel announced yesterday.

The BBC is not expected to disclose its Christmas offerings until early next month, partly because of uncertainty over whether the American soap opera *Dallas* will return to the

Underground trip for Duke



The Duke of Edinburgh went 700ft underground in a pit cage yesterday (left) to see Chatterley Whitfield mining museum in Stoke-on-Trent.

For the Prince it was just like going on shift as a miner for he had to put on a helmet, overalls and a pair of Wellington boots. He was taken right down to the coalface, which is now part of the museum, attracting thousands of people from all over the country.

The museum's coalface is due to be flooded next year when pumping operations cease at the nearby Wolstanton colliery, which is closing. Another coalface is to be created for visitors.

Farmer escapes penalty of wildlife law

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

A farmer who dug up scarce wild flowers to plant swedes escaped all penalties under wildlife law, the Nature Conservancy Council said yesterday.

Mr William Wilkinson, chairman of the council, said that the level of damage to important wildlife haunts was "quite unacceptable".

The swede case was one of more than 200 in which damage was done last year to land classed as a site of special scientific interest. It was also one of eight cases in which the scientific interest was destroyed. The five acres of land on

Broadstone Meadow in Hereford and Worcester used to support many wild plants, including the scarce meadow saffron, which produces a mauve flower like that of a crocus, late in the summer.

The council's wildlife quango, said in its latest annual report that the case against the owner had been dismissed on technical grounds. Wildlife law had since been tightened.

Report 1984/85 (Nature Conservancy Council, Northminster House, Peterborough, Cambs PE1 1UA).



Women at the top: (from left) Amelia Gilbert, company director, Denise Wyatt, joint managing director, and Janet Brady, public relations director, at the women's conference (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Women in business find 'Dynasty' ally

By Patricia Clough

A plea for an end to the notion that women cannot get to the top in business and industry without losing their femininity was raised by Lady Warnock, Mistress of Girton College Cambridge, yesterday.

"The notion that by succeeding academically or later, by succeeding in any management you thereby destroy your femininity is the most pervasive threat against women that there is", she said.

Lady Warnock was speaking

at the first conference organised by the Institute of Directors specifically for women. The IoD, one of the most persistently male institutions in British business, has noticed that although women are entering business in large numbers, only 3 per cent of its members are female and it is aiming to attract more.

While Lady Warnock was urging parents and teachers to help change the prejudices towards women, it appeared

as though help might be coming from an unexpected ally - the actress Joan Collins, alias Alexis Carrington, head of an oil empire in the television series *Dynasty*.

A group of sixth-form schoolgirls at the conference had each spent a week watching a woman executive at work, in a scheme pioneered by the IoD and the Department of Trade. Several of the girls revealed that the Joan Collins-

Alexis figure had been at the back of their minds when they started.

"Everyone says that (*Dynasty*) is what it's like", Sara de la Warr, of Maidstone, who shadowed Mrs Theresa Wickham, outgoing chairman of the National Womens Farmers Union, said. "But now I take a more realistic view. You get thrills in other ways." She, like most of the other girls, is just as keen to go into business.

Invitation to hackers

By Mathew May, Computer News Editor

Silly or obvious passwords to computer systems are giving high-technology criminals an easy way to fraud or industrial espionage, Mr James McDonald, a computer consultant, said yesterday.

Staff who chose easy-to-remember passwords such as

pet names, home telephone numbers or swear words were behaving as stupidly as someone who left keys under the front door mat, he said.

Mr McDonald recommended that computers should be designed to try to reject obvious passwords.

Laker staff to sue BA

By Our Transport Editor

Former employees of Laker Airways are to bring a new case against British Airways and other airlines in the US courts, Captain Alan Hellary, a former Laker pilot and committee member of the Association of Laker Employees said yesterday.

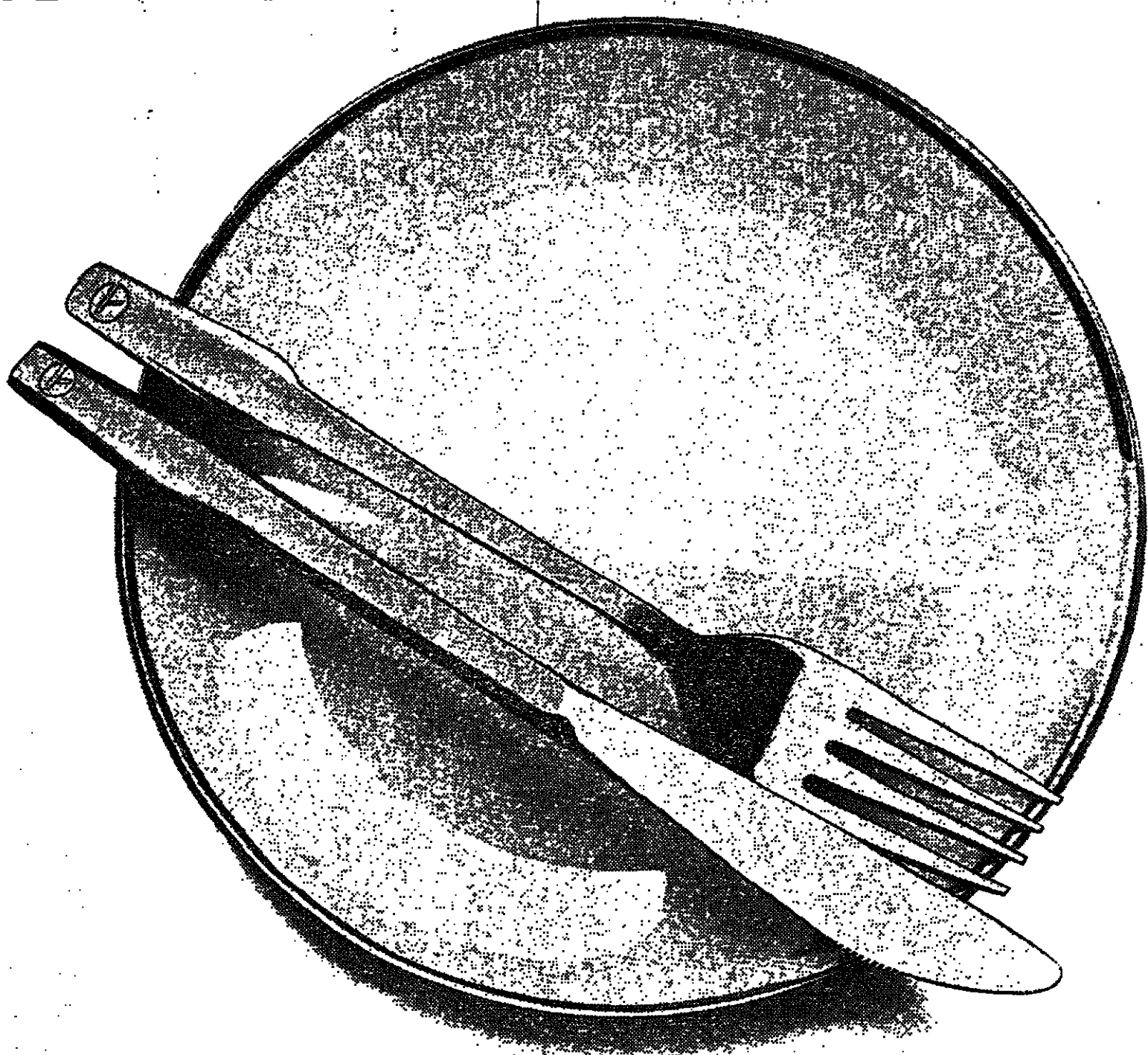
The employees will be represented by Mr Robert Beck-

man, the US lawyer who assisted Sir Freddy Laker in his case against the airlines. About 2,500 former Laker staff are among those eligible for payments of up to £50,000 under the £43 million settlement agreed between the airlines and the liquidators.

The girl aged 10, whom the magistrates ordered should not be named, disappeared from the Bel-Air caravan site at St Osyth in 1982 and was found five hours later 90 miles away at Great Yarmouth.

Mr Hopkins will be detained in a police cell until his next appearance. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

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Sale of British Gas not an electoral bribe

PRIVATIZATION

An allegation by Mr Peter Hardy (Wentworth, Lab) that the Government intended to privatize British Gas to get the funds for an electoral bribe was denied by Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, during Commons questions.

When Mr Hardy asked the minister how many letters he had received making this suggestion, he replied: Many letters stating this sort of argument have been on Labour Party letter headings. Mr Hardy had also asked how many letters had suggested the intention to privatize British Gas was based simply on rather ugly dogma. The organization was inherently and significantly successful.

Mr Peter Pike (Burnley, Lab) the public felt there was no need for British Gas to be taken into private ownership.

Mr Walker said in that case he would look forward to fighting the next election with Labour fighting to renationalize British Gas.

Mr Ronald Davies (Caerphilly, Lab) said gas prices had risen 36 per cent in real terms in the last six years and that this fell heavily on the low paid and those on fixed incomes.

Mr Walker: I am sure that the methods we will employ in terms of regulation will mean that consumers will benefit from the improving efficiency of British Gas.

Mrs Elaine Kellett-Bowman (Lan-

Jobs being created at rate of 500 a month

EMPLOYMENT

In a little over a year of operation, National Coal Board (Enterprise) Ltd had committed direct financial assistance to 188 projects, amounting to some £4 million, and these funds had so far helped to create some 2,700 potential jobs opportunities throughout the coalfields.

Mr David Hunt, Under Secretary of State for Energy, said during Commons questions.

Mr John Humeau (Exeter, C): This Government is doing more for jobs and enterprise in mining areas than any previous Labour Government.

Mr Hunt: When 330 pits were closed by the Labour Party there was no enterprise company. This Government strongly supports this excellent initiative by the NCB to breathe new life into the declining mining areas. The enterprise company is supporting projects which are creating jobs at the rate of 500 a month.

Mrs Ann Clwyd (Cynon Valley, Lab): Since 1979 we have lost 11,000 jobs in the mining industry in Wales and only 700 alternative jobs have been promised. Where are the other jobs coming from?

Mr Hunt: She should be aware of the excellent initiative in her own constituency, where, thanks to the enterprise company, the Merthyr Enterprise Agency is to extend its operations into the Cynon Valley.

The NCB on Friday handed over a substantial cheque to the Merthyr and Aberdare Enterprise Agency and that will be the first of three annual instalments in support of the newly-expanded agency.

Mr Kevin Barron (Rother Valley, Lab): Job creation under NCB Enterprise Ltd is very small indeed in relation to the jobs that have been lost since the end of the strike in South Yorkshire. It would be a lot better if the NCB, instead of closing pits and making people unemployed, kept pits open.

Mr Hunt: For coal to survive in this competitive world it must be competitive itself. All the steps necessary must be taken to make sure there is not only competition in coal in future but that it is also a competitive product on the market.

Mr Michael Foot (Bleasun Gwent, Lab): Will he be on behalf of the Government give an absolute assurance that this scheme will not be abandoned after a year or so, but will be expanded?

It is modelled on a scheme introduced in the steel industry and one of the first things Mr MacGregor did when he went to the steel industry was to say he was going to run down the steel industry because that job ought to be done by the Government.

We are all glad Mr MacGregor may be learning at last but will the minister give us guidance on when the scheme will be expanded over the next 10 years?

Mr Hunt: It was the chairman of the NCB who introduced this scheme called NCB (Enterprise) Limited. It was investment indeed. The £4 million has been invested in projects totalling £25 million and we are always giving assurances on the future of the company.

It has made an excellent start and it is time Labour realized it.

Minister seeking closer partnership with farmers to protect the environment

AGRICULTURE

A partnership between the Government and farmers intended to give new protection to areas of national environmental importance was the key theme of the Agriculture Bill which came before the Commons for its second reading.

Mr Michael Jopling, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, told MPs that farmers in designated areas would be offered payments to follow practices which respected local environmental needs.

The minister also announced it had been decided to wind up the Eggs Authority. A clause will be introduced into the Bill for this purpose.

Moving the second reading, Mr Jopling, said it sought to reinforce the partnership between Government and the agriculture industry.

For many years governments had provided a range of regulatory, advisory and research services to the farming industry. More recently, the industry had been encouraged to respond more to the needs of the market.

The Bill was not structured to cover the industry but to provide a framework within which it could voluntarily influence in new ways the provision of advisory, research and marketing services and respond to the needs of the environment.

Farmers, growers and others were prepared to pay for the clearest possible signal. He did not plan to charge for the kind of advice given to farmers on conservation, animal welfare issues. Nor was he looking to the industry to fund each and every project from which the Government had decided to withdraw.

He had said in May that he saw advantage in making it possible for each sector of the industry to contribute to research and development either voluntarily or by means of sectoral levies operated by appropriate statutory bodies. Discussions with the industry on the details were still going on.

The Sugar Beet Research and Education Committee had for many years operated smoothly to provide industry funds for relevant research. There, and in the milk sector, no new powers were needed to operate sectoral levy systems.

The Bill included changes in the constitutional arrangements of the Home Grown Cereals Authority and the Meat and Livestock Commission which would enable each of those bodies, if the relevant sector wished, to raise additional levy funds for research and development purposes and to decide how any such funds could be spent. The Bill would also make it possible for oilseed rape to come under the wing of the Home Grown Cereals Authority.

Representatives of the horticulture industry had already shown themselves prepared to make a substantial contribution to research and development in their sector. In response to a request from the National Farmers' Union, he would be instituting a poll of the industry early in the new year to determine the level of support for a horticultural development fund to collect a levy with which to fund research and development.

A Government amendment to the Bill would be brought forward to abolish the Eggs Authority. The

Preserving countryside

The £16.5 million to be saved was dwarfed more than 25 times over by the increased amount which the intervention board would have to spend. This was the economics of the madhouse. The Opposition had no idea what charges there would be in a pole and could not know what hardship would be caused.

Labour would not persist with these charges. It would undertake a major restructuring of Adas and the research and development so that they would be able to fulfil more sensibly the serious long-term needs of agriculture.

Mr Robert Maclean (Caithness and Sutherland, Con) moved an amendment that the Commons should not give a second reading to a Bill which provided the means seriously to cut Adas.

He said the major issue of the Bill was the impact it would have on the Government to make on the agriculture industry for research and advice. One must question the timing - quite apart from the substance and size - of these cuts. It was extraordinary that when the industry was reeling from one of the worst harvests it had had to face over many years and the minister was seeking to cut its pocket on that, and was now producing some further hammer blow.

Mr Hector Moore (Dumfriesshire, Con) said he warmly welcomed the Government's decision to assist farmers to maintain and enhance conservation and look after scenic beauty in the countryside.

The Bill highlighted the Government's commitment to the environment, heritage and habitat and was a welcome addition to the countryside legislation which had been passed.

Mr Thomas Torney (Bradford South, Lab) said the minister was acting with indecent haste to do the bidding of the Treasury - to cut and cut again, regardless of the effect on people.

The minister had promised there would be no charges for advice on conservation, rural diversification and animal welfare, but who knew whether a future minister, egged on by the Treasury would do what had been promised today?

Esprit seen as initiative deserving support

TECHNOLOGY

Despite undoubted progress the scale and influence of the European Strategic Programme for Research and Development in Information Technology (Esprit) must not be over-estimated, Lord Kings Norton (Ind) said when he opened a House of Lords debate on the report of the European Communities Committee on the programme.

The 750 million European currency units allotted by the Commission over five years was compared with American and Japanese research, a very small contribution. However, in what the committee called the vital growth area of information technology, Esprit was seen as a valuable initiative deserving support.

In the committee's opinion improving the internal market was essential if Esprit was to achieve its full potential. This called for an exercise in political will by member states. There had been no such political will in the past decade.

He hoped the House would be told whether the Government, and in particular the Minister for Information Technology, was making any progress in changing the present unsatisfactory situation. The committee believed that greater efforts must be made to achieve effective co-ordination between Europe and the corresponding national programmes.

Lord Bruce of Donington, for the Opposition, said he wondered what was meant by pre-competitive research and development. He always thought that competition was supposed to be the life-blood of the economy, that market forces were the most reliable way of ensuring that the benefits of people's intelligence and productivity were made available to mankind generally.

It appeared that there was some abrogation of this principle. Here they had a state of affairs in which in the name of information technology and the subsequent other areas too there was pre-competitive co-operation. Then, suddenly, the flag dropped and the starter's pistol went off and they were in a competitive world completely different to that.

Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran (L) said Esprit had been accused of suffering from the NIH syndrome - not invented here. The same could be said of many firms in the United Kingdom where ideas produced by the United States are copied and then sold as their own.

Arrangements should be made by the EEC for risk or venture capital to be available for innovative small firms in the Esprit programme.

Lord Betherington, in a maiden speech, said he welcomed the news that the success of the Esprit programme would be judged on the basis of the number of jobs it brought forward by two years, but he was concerned where the extra funding would come from. This would amount to 23 per cent for the United Kingdom out of the total of £449 million.

It will not be, I trust (he said), by reducing the current grants to universities or out of money already allocated for our national research.

Walker tackled on coal mine safety

COAL INDUSTRY

The only thing that had assisted creation of a separate miners' union was the behaviour of the leader of the National Union of Mineworkers, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, told the Commons during question time exchanges on the allegation that bribes had been offered to NUM officials to persuade them to go over to the Union of Democratic Mineworkers.

Had it not been for the behaviour of Mr Arthur Scargill, there would not be a separate union today, said Mr Walker.

Mr Alex Eadie, an Opposition spokesman on energy, had said Mr Walker must be aware of the allegations of bribery by the National Coal Board to assist the formation of the breakaway union.

Since the statement of Mr Jack Jones, leader of the Leicestershire NUM, about being offered a pension and a car is a most serious offence indeed, would Mr Walker suspend Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the NCB, pending an inquiry into the whole matter?

Mr Walker made no response to this request, referring, instead, to Mr Scargill's role in the creation of the UDM.

Earlier Mr Roy Mason (Barnsley, Central, Lab) asked if Mr Walker had yet decided upon legislation to assist miners who, having been on strike for 12 months, were now in doubt about their entitlements to miners' redundancy pension benefits.

Would the Secretary of State make a statement to give these men reassurance for the future?

Mr Walker said the matter was being considered with the Department of Health and Social Security and a statement would be made when a conclusion had been reached.

Mr Michael Foot (Bleasun Gwent, Lab) raised with Mr Walker the letter on pit safety in Monday's issue of *The Times* from Mr Peter McNestry, National Secretary of the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Dewees and Shootfurther. In the light of Mr McNestry's letter (said Mr Foot) can Mr Walker give an undertaking that he will set in hand an immediate investigation to ensure no illegal illicit or other kind of pressures are brought to bear to reduce safety standards in the pits?

Mr Walker: Obviously, action should be taken by the normal authorities against anything illegal. I know of no such action being taken.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Opening of debate on motion to approve Anglo-Irish agreement. Lords (2.30): Debate on motion to approve Anglo-Irish agreement.

Jopling: Countryside was created by farmers

Changes in the Bill were designed to make it possible for the Home Grown Cereals Authority to play a wider role in research and development and promotion if the industry wanted.

This coverage of that authority could be extended under the Bill to other defined arable crops if the sectors concerned wished to provide industry funds through the authority.

The most important change affecting the Meat and Livestock Commission was the introduction of new flexibility into the commission's levy-raising powers. The main purpose was to enable the commission to implement plans to raise new funds from livestock producers for theme and species promotion of meat. The commission was increased in size from 10 to 11.

The period of adjustment from producing more and more to controlling production, would be painful, particularly for small farmers. So they should not be changing the financial result of the Agriculture Bill, the Secretary of State said.

Advisory Service. Those needing advice most would possibly be those least able to pay for it under the new charging structure.

Oil prospects very good

Prospects for the British oil industry in the North Sea were extremely good and, if reserves of oil were declining, this was because the oil was being used, Mr Dick Sheehy, Secretary of State for Energy, said during questions in the Commons.

He said the latest estimate of remaining recoverable reserves of oil in the British sector of the North Sea was 3,225 million tonnes. This compared with 1,475 million tonnes in 1982, 1,375 million tonnes in 1983 and 1,300 million tonnes in 1984.

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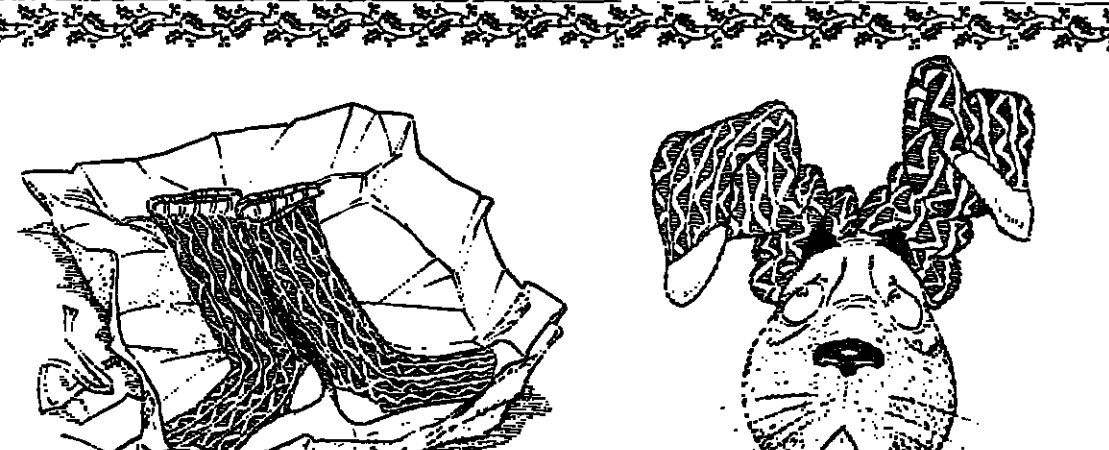
Government moves over tin crisis

The British Government is to continue its efforts to persuade fellow member countries of the International Tin Council to meet their obligations so that a satisfactory solution to the present crisis in tin may be found, Mr Paul Channon, Minister for Trade, said in a written Commons reply.

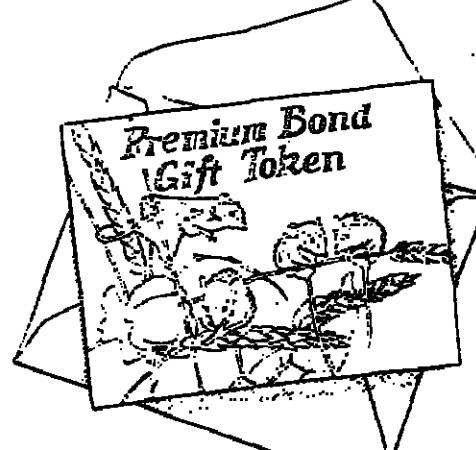
Mr Alexander Fletcher (Edinburgh, Central, C) had called for urgent action into the affairs which had led to the sudden suspension of the activities of the Buffer Stock Manager and of trading on the metals exchange.

Mr Channon said that the Government was naturally concerned to obtain the fullest possible information to assist in its aim of securing an orderly return to trading in tin. The Government and, as appropriate, the Bank of England, were holding talks with the various parties concerned and the International Tin Council had met the banks and the London Metal Exchange to discuss possible solutions to the crisis.

The FTC was to resume its meeting on December 2 and would remain in session until it reached a definitive solution to the current crisis.



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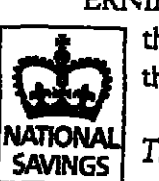


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Pressure for abolition of standing charges

FUEL BILLS

Mr Alastair Goodlad, Under Secretary of State for Energy, said under pressure from MPs in the Commons to abolish standing charges for gas and electricity, particularly for the elderly. He argued that the latest stage of costs of maintaining supplies, and their abolition would lead to higher unit charges to customers.

Mr Harry Greenway (Edling North, C): Will Mr Goodlad see what can be done to achieve abolition of standing charges for pensioners? Taken together with the 1 year standing charges represent a whole month's pension and are a considerable imposition. Is it not about time something was done about it?

Mr Goodlad replied that the charges represented the inevitable costs such as metering, accounting and emergency services. Revenue loss by abolishing charges would have to be recovered and so people such as the sick and the elderly would be penalized.

He added that the Government

A million have joined youth training scheme

Lord Young of Gifford, Secretary of State for Employment, defended the youth training scheme during questions in the House of Lords.

Lord Young of Gifford declared: It is a voluntary scheme since eligible young people choose whether or not to join. They are also entirely free to leave at any time.

It would seem unfair and unreasonable if a small number of people on the scheme should still receive full supplementary benefit immediately afterwards.

Lord Stoddart of Swinton (Lab): Between April 1984 and 1985 1,122 claims were disallowed due to young people not accepting a place on the YTS. Will the same rules apply to the new job counselling scheme?

Lord Young of Gifford: On Friday this week I go to meet the one millionth young person to join the YTS. That puts it in proportion.

Precise details of the counselling scheme have yet to be announced, but if an adult willfully refuses an opportunity to go to counselling to help them back into employment, we shall have to consider the position.

Case still drags on after three years

The windows rattle in Mr Jim Shields's cottage when coaches leave the yard across the lane to ferry schoolchildren to villages near by. Mr Shields and the coaches are at the heart of an unfinished saga which seems likely to qualify for a long footnote in the history of the British ombudsman.

The first piece of evidence in the fat dossier in the cottage is an aerial photograph taken more than 20 years ago of the property where the coaches are parked. No vehicle is shown, but there is a small collection of white blobs in one corner.

Does the photograph show the site was once used not to park large vehicles, but as a chicken run? That question is at the heart of the controversy that has dogged Sibford Ferris through the dense thickets of planning law.

Sibford Ferris is one of a collection of villages between Hook Norton and the Vale of Red Horse in the remotest corner of Oxfordshire. Mr and Mrs Shields, former teachers, have lived there for almost 30 years. They now live in the cottage by the corner at the foot of a steep hill, where the main road turns sharply.

The village is the sort of place where councils use planning powers to curb commercial development. The question whether coaches should be allowed to park in the yard on the hillside has aroused powerful emotions in the village, parish council and Conservative-dominated Cherwell District Council.

Mr Shields complained to his local ombudsman more than three years ago about the way planning permission for the yard had been granted by the district council.

Mr H. B. McKenzie Johnston, the local ombudsman, announced two years ago that it was not for him to say whether the coaches should have been allowed to park there. But he was entitled to examine the council's background inquiries into the history of the site.

"I cannot conclude that they were adequate", he wrote. Consent for the coach park had been granted not with planning permission, but on a "certificate of established use", based on assertions that the site had been used as a vehicle park for several years.

"I consider that the decision to grant it was taken with maladministration. Because this, and the evidence since made available, casts doubt upon whether it should ever have been granted, there is consequential injustice for the complainant."

Last year, Mr Shields became one of the few complainants to win a second report, on the grounds that the council had failed to right the injustice in the first. That was issued after Mr McKenzie Johnston took legal advice.

The issue was complicated further by an unrelated argument between the council and ombudsman about a different complaint.

Mr Shields felt aggrieved because he did not learn that the certificate had been granted to the coach firm for two years after it had been issued.

Planning law has since been tightened. Applications for certificates have to be published so objectors have a chance to challenge them.

But the question of whether the Sibford Ferris coaches should be there has been overtaken. Mr McKenzie Johnston, the investigating ombudsman, has retired, and there is nothing his successor can do to force the council to abide by his findings.

Mr Shields has taken the initiative and steered the case in a new direction which highlights the way in which an ombudsman's investigation can fizzle out. Mr Shields has made a new complaint about the way in which the ombudsman's verdict on his first complaint was handled by the council.

The complaint has been accepted by the ombudsman's staff, although it is not certain that there will be a full investigation. "I am fighting for the ombudsman system as well as for myself," Mr Shields said.

The prospect of a further investigation means that comment about the case from all quarters is muted.

After more than 20 years the white blobs on the aerial photograph may yet have a part to play.

Tomorrow: Toothless watchdogs?

Local ombudsman: 2

The law shows no sign of enabling aggrieved citizens to force councils to abide by verdicts of local ombudsmen. But, as HUGH CLAYTON, Environment Correspondent, reports, one frustrated ratepayer hopes he has found a way.

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Tomorrow: Toothless watchdogs?

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Government aims to end right of jury trial for some minor offences

By Frances Gihb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government is to propose the abolition of trial by jury for certain minor offences in its White Paper on criminal justice to help ease crown court congestion.

It is expected to propose that in the case of certain offences, such as common assault and driving while disqualified, the defendant should no longer have the right to elect jury trial but must be tried by magistrates.

However it is not likely to propose that jury be ended in cases of theft, in spite of support for the measures by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, the Magistrates' Association, and the Justices' Clerks' Society.

The move is certain to provoke controversy after previous attempts to end jury trial for minor offences failed. Ten years ago, opposition MPs thwarted a Home Office attempt to end jury trial in a number of cases, in spite of a favourable recommendation by a committee headed by Lord Justice James.

Pressure to end the right to elect jury trial for certain minor

offences has been mounting in the past 18 months as the crown court workload has grown.

In July last year the Lord Chief Justice recommended such a move, arguing that the costs in terms of money and time were enormous. In the London area, theft trials occupied about 14 per cent of total crown court time.

In May this year the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, said there were a number of offences, "relatively minor by any objective standard", which could, "perfectly well be dealt with at petty sessions". The crown court would be left to deal with more serious business.

The Government move comes against a background of unprecedented work for the crown court. Commitments for trial in the crown court rose by 50 per cent between 1979 and last year. In a high proportion of contested cases, acquittals were directed by the judge.

Those in favour of a redistribution of cases between crown and magistrates' courts argue

that minor cases of theft will also have to be included to make any difference to the workload.

Mr Geoffrey Norman, secretary of the Magistrates' Association, said yesterday: "The objection to removing jury trial for theft is that it involves dishonesty, and if therefore damages a person's reputation. But there are other offences involving dishonesty, such as travelling without a rail ticket, which carry no right to jury trial. And often they involve much larger sums of money than some of the offences of theft that come up to the crown court, such as stealing two cabbages and a beer mug."

Common assault is expected to be included after a recent ruling in which it was held that a person charged with common assault under section 42 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 had no right to elect trial by jury. The statutory offences of assault occasioning actual bodily harm and common assault created by section 47 of the 1861 Act were triable either in the crown or magistrates' courts, the judges said.



Mr Shiro Nagase (left) and Mr Katsutoshi Sakamaki, two Japanese Buddhist monks who appeared before Devizes magistrates yesterday, standing outside the court with the Canon of Southwark.

The two Buddhists were accused of entering the danger area of the Imber Army Ranges during a cruise missile exercise on Salisbury Plain.

Mr Nagase, aged 34, and Mr Sakamaki, aged 23, of Nipponzan, Willen, Milton Keynes, denied trespassing contrary to Salisbury Plain

by-laws. The court was told that the monks were members of Nipponzan Myohoji, an order of Japanese Buddhists who have dedicated their lives to ridding the world of nuclear weapons. They were arrested 10 yards inside the area.

Robert Phillips, aged 34, of Lodge Gate, Milton Keynes, a management consultant employed by a City firm of chartered accountants, was charged with the same offence. He also pleaded not guilty.

The monks, dressed in saffron

robes, held their hands together as if in prayer during the hearing. Mr Brock Trethowan, for the prosecution, said the three were among a large number of demonstrators who invaded the area on July 21. They crossed the barbed wire fence already broken by those ahead. They were stopped and given a warning that they were trespassing.

They were not immediately arrested because the Ministry of Defence police had insufficient manpower at the time, but they were later arrested.

Du Pont to build £45m plant in Derry

The multinational chemical company Du Pont has selected Londonderry as the site for the European production of Kevlar, a new high-strength, low-weight engineering fibre that is being used increasingly in the aerospace, marine, automotive, and oil industries.

The Kevlar spinning plant, which will cost £45 million, is to be built at Du Pont's Maydown complex at Londonderry, where 1,350 people are employed producing synthetic rubbers and elastomeric fibre. The plant is expected to start production in late 1987, employing a further 300 people with 330 people being employed during its construction.

Kevlar, which is five times as strong as steel on a weight for weight basis, is thought to be the most important synthetic fibre development since nylon.

Its increasing use in high performance aircraft and space vehicles gives the fibre strategic importance and the Ulster authorities are clearly pleased with the choice of Maydown as the first production plant outside the United States.

The plant will spin about 7,000 tons of fibre annually from polymer supplied from the company's main facility at Richmond, Virginia, and its production will be sold on world markets.

Teachers likely to seek more talks

Unions in the 10-month-old English and Welsh teachers' pay dispute are to meet in London on December 5 in an attempt to break the latest deadlock.

The likelihood is that the unions will agree to re-open talks, at first on an informal basis, to be followed by a full meeting of both sides.

The dispute has been in stalemate since earlier this month when the unions voted against returning to the negotiating table after the college lecturers' union, sided with the biggest union, the National Association of Teachers, to out-vote the other five unions.

But by December 5, the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education will have lost its

eight towns it has added to its hit-list for selective strike action this week. They are Forres, Forfar, Airdrie, Lesmahagow, Bonnyrigg, Musselburgh, Campbeltown, and Tain.

University dons are to vote this week on whether to stage a one-day national strike on January 15 in protest at government cuts in higher education. If the Association of University Teachers' ballot is in favour, the action will be the first national strike of university lecturers.

Anti-racist teachers at a multicultural education unit in Bristol are calling for the dismissal of a colleague because he spoke in defence of Mr Ray Honeyford, the headmaster of Drummond Middle School, Bradford. Mr Jon Savery came under fire after he wrote an article for the right-wing *Salisbury Review* in which he said more teachers should have stood up for Mr Honeyford

Facilities for childless 'patchy'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Infertile couples are having to travel long distances and face enormous waits for treatment because National Health Service facilities for the infertile are so patchy and poor, Mr Frank Dobson, Labour's health spokesman, said yesterday.

"With health authorities having to struggle to keep cardiac units going or to keep children's hospitals open, pleas for help from the childless do not get much attention", Mr Dobson said, publishing a survey of NHS facilities for the childless.

Two regions, the North and

East Anglia, have neither a NHS test-tube baby clinic nor a centre for artificial insemination by donor (AID). Wales, Mersey, Yorkshire, Wessex, and South-West Thames have no test-tube clinics, and Mersey has no AID clinic, although there is a commercial one and one run by the British Pregnancy Advisory Service.

Of the 13 test-tube clinics, eight are provided within the NHS and five are run commercially where a typical course of treatment would cost about £2,000 to £3,000, Mr Dobson said.

Of the 47 centres for AID, 23 are run by the NHS, 17 are run for profit and seven by the British Pregnancy Advisory Service. A typical three month course of treatment in a commercial AID clinic costs about £250, he said. BPAS would charge £175.

But even women going to NHS clinics are often asked to pay up to £30 a cycle because health authorities are so short of money, with up to one in 10 couples infertile or sub-fertile tens of thousands of people were affected, he said.

Flat period ahead for car sales

By Teresa Poole

British car sales will remain relatively flat during the rest of this decade but production levels should show a gradual increase, according to the latest DRI World Automotive Forecast Report.

The number of British built cars should reach 975,000 this year, compared with 909,000 last year. This should then rise to more than a million in 1987, the report says. Sales will reach 1,770,000 this year and will remain at about that level until the end of the decade.

Japanese car manufacturers will increasingly seek joint projects with European car manufacturers to beat trade barriers.

The Japanese manufacturers' collective share of the Western Europe market is expected to rise to 10.7 per cent next year, and reach 11.7 per cent by 1991.

Firms not spending enough on training

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Companies were warned industrial training boards, yesterday that unless they increased their spending on training they could face re-imposition of industrial training boards, most of which were abolished by the Government four years ago.

Mr Bryan Nicholson, chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, delivered the warning, which is understood to have been underwritten by the promises which were made to the Government had been honoured. "A number of the share of training costs as part of industrial reconstruction."

Speaking to a training organizations' conference in London, industry's spending on training Mr Nicholson said: "Critics in Japan, the United States and who point to obvious failures in West Germany, where not only the voluntary training system, was more spent than in Britain, to broken promises and a dearth of action, will be difficult to resist when they call for know that training is an statutory arrangements."

The Industrial Training Act production methods and 1981 abolished 16 of the 23 machinery."

Stateless threat to 10,000 in Hong Kong

By Pat Healy

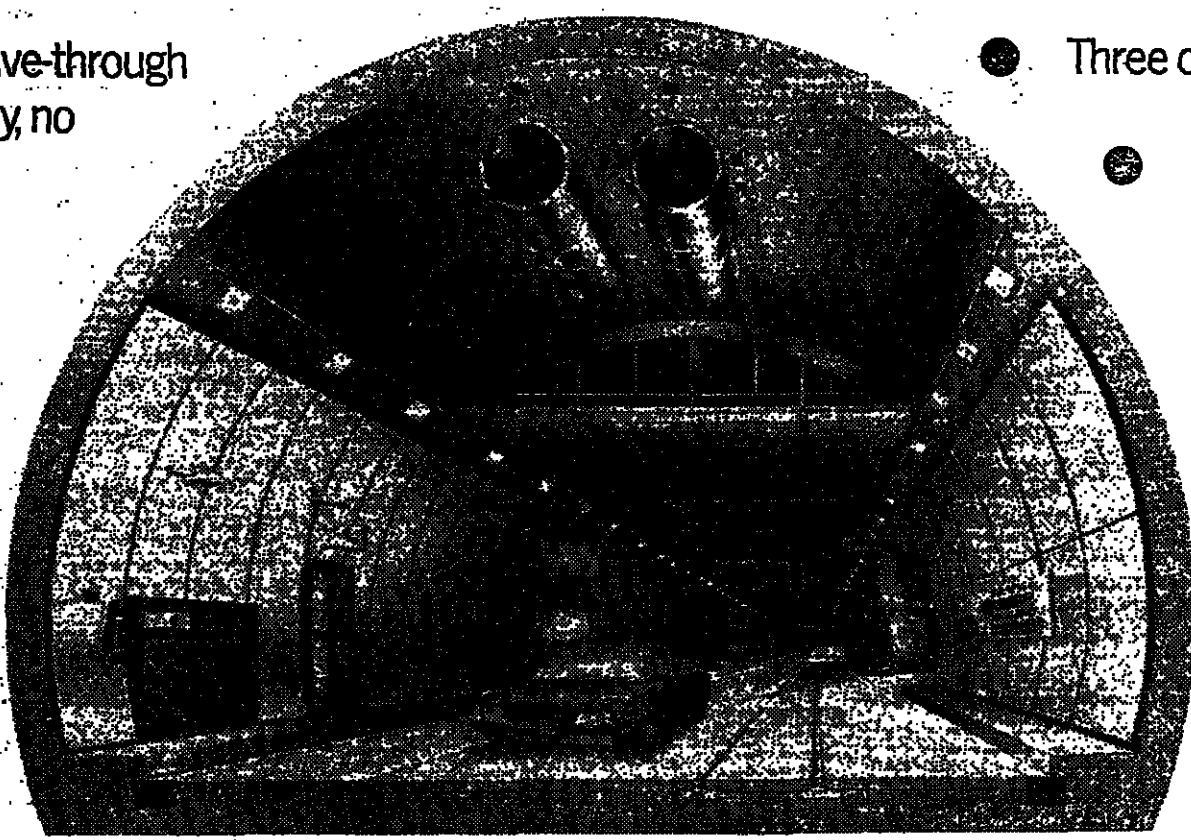
Nearly 10,000 British citizens in Hong Kong will be effectively stateless when the colony returns to China in 1997, according to the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants. Their position has been disregarded in nationality proposals because of Britain's "pathological fear of non-white immigration".

The proposals, which are to be debated in the Hong Kong legislative council next week and in both Houses of Parliament in December, will give British citizens in the former colony who are not also Chinese nationals the status of British Overseas Citizenship. That, the JCWI said in a report yesterday, will give them no right of abode in either country, and the status cannot be passed on to children.

A Question of Belonging by Anne Owers (JCWI, 115 Old Street, London EC1V 9JR, £1).

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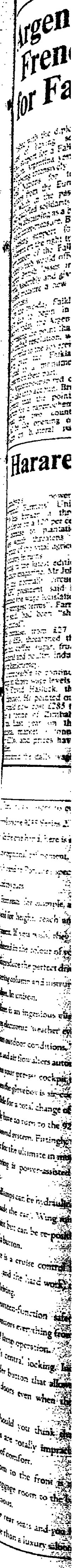


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**UNITED
TECHNOLOGIES**

Argentina tries to exploit French backing at UN for Falklands resolution

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Flushed with the diplomatic success of having secured French support for a Falklands resolution, Argentina yesterday was lobbying intensively at the United Nations for further defections from the European camp, which in the past has shown qualified solidarity with Britain by abstaining as a bloc.

As a counter-measure, Britain was seeking support for an amendment on the right to self-determination of the Falkland Islands which would offset to a degree British losses in the General Assembly and give the proposed measure a new gloss and emphasis.

With the two-day Falklands debate due to begin in the Assembly today, the Argentines were pressing the point that the newly drafted resolution, which does not refer to the sovereignty dispute over the Falklands, amounted to a monumental concession on their part.

The Argentine-inspired draft tries to take into account British arguments that the point of departure for a rapprochement between the two countries should be the opening of a dialogue on bilateral issues

excluding the question of Falklands sovereignty. The draft refers to negotiations on "all aspects of the future" of the islands, a term vague enough for the French.

There were unconfirmed reports that France had paved the way for Greek and Italian support and that Danish, West German and Dutch desertions were possibly forthcoming.

Since the first Falklands resolution, presented in the aftermath of the war in the South Atlantic in 1982, European countries have always viewed the British position on Falklands negotiations as intransigent and have kept their outright support away from Argentina with great reluctance.

Faced with the prospect of a spectacular win by the Argentines in the Assembly, Britain has presented the self-determination amendments in order to save face. Yet the outcome of the voting on the amendment hung in the balance for Britain, since a majority of the Assembly has found the Falklands a special colonial case where the right to self-determination does not apply.

Most countries feel that the islanders, though settlers for generations, are British and an anachronism, and there was a risk that Britain could overplay its hand in the Assembly.

Because negotiation to settle disputes is a basic tenet of the UN Charter, and a principle difficult to vote against, Britain has always counted the large number of abstentions as well as the negative votes as manifestations of support for its position, or as testimony of its power to influence and persuade. Last year the vote was 89-9 with 54 abstentions.

British diplomats were trying to drive home the argument that the present text was simply a variation on the same theme. In their minds the draft is a clever way of concealing Argentine intentions to enter into sovereignty negotiations of a predetermined nature without taking into account the wishes of the islanders.

Britain says that its decision to put forward only one amendment is a conciliatory gesture to the Argentines, while the Argentines see it as a deliberate provocation.



Stars back Aids gala

The actress Elizabeth Taylor being welcomed by French singer Line Renaud to Paris for a gala soirée in support of Aids research.

Miss Taylor, chairman of the American Foundation for Aids Research, was attending last night the 2,000-franc-a-plate event at the Paradis Latin, a left bank nightclub.

The evening's entertainment, hosted by Bernard Pivot, one of French television's most popular entertainers, featured performances by French singers Mireille Mathieu, Dalida, Annie Cordy, Serge Lama and America's Eartha Kitt, as well as comedy sketches by France's top impersonator, Thierry Lherault.

UK jet sale to India is clinched

From Michael Hamlyn Delhi

A sales team from British Aerospace was last night finally able to celebrate the sale of £140 million of Sea Harrier jump jets and Sea Eagle missiles to the Indian Navy.

The deal, signed yesterday by ministry officials, will be announced officially in the Indian Parliament today. It has taken almost three years to complete negotiations on the contract, which began as a six-month option following India's earlier purchase of eight planes to replace its squadron of Sea Hawks.

The new deal is for 10 Harriers, plus one specially developed two-seater trainer.

Energy crisis stunts economic growth

Power cuts as Moscow slows down the flow of oil

In the second of three articles on the impact of the energy crisis in East bloc countries, ROGER BOYES, East Europe Correspondent, analyses the difficulties facing Bulgaria.

"No panic," said a Bulgarian official recently, as the lights flickered for the third time, "just good house-keeping."

The Bulgarian leadership understood the implications of last winter better than most of its neighbours. In July both the government and the Sofia city administration held special meetings to ginger up repair work on generators and to improve the supply of spare parts for power stations. Distribution of coal and briquettes is to be improved. Last month the wages of miners and other energy-sector workers were increased by between 15 and 20 per cent. New equipment has found its way to surface workers and efficient miners are to be rewarded with better apartments. Whether this will translate into better energy supplies remains to be seen.

But the authorities can at least batten down demand. Electricity prices have risen by 41 per cent in ordinary households and by 58 per cent for industry.

The price of petrol, already among the highest in Europe, went up 35 per cent to 1.20 leva (about £1) a litre in September. As in Romania, a private car has become something to be used on special occasions.

Yet all this is not enough. With the cold still bearable in Sofia, there are already power cuts of two hours or more. A typical experience: arriving at a petrol station in the suburbs to

find the pumps hooded and a solitary cashier sitting in candlelight as if praying for the soul of a relative.

The authorities talk endlessly of the weather, like the mythical British bus queue. Above all, they say, the energy problems stem from a summer drought in the Balkans which dried up water stored behind dams.

But this is a convenient scapegoat: after all, hydro-electricity accounts for only 20 per cent of Bulgarian electricity needs.

The real, unmentioned, energy problem is rooted in Soviet oil. The Soviet Union supplies all Bulgaria's oil, but it is not supplying enough, and it wants better-quality goods as payment.

The Soviet Ambassador to Sofia, Mr Leonid Grekov, has even gone on record as saying that the Bulgarians should channel high-quality goods to Moscow - rather, it was implied, than reserving them for the lucrative Western markets - and that Bulgarian workers should stop taking time off work to tend their private allotments.

Moscow is in a kind of trade bondage with its allies: it is exploited like a colonial power. Cheap oil and gas are funnelled to the Warsaw Pact countries and in return they get sub-standard shoes and cherry jam with pipes.

Moscow is in a kind of trade bondage with its allies: it is exploited like a colonial power. Cheap oil and gas are funnelled to the Warsaw Pact countries and in return they get sub-standard shoes and cherry jam with pipes.

The Soviet leadership wants to change this and the strain is being felt throughout East Europe, most of all during winter. The Hungarians calculate that in 1972 it was possible to pay for a million tonnes of Soviet oil with 800 Ikarus buses. Now the same quantity costs them 4,000 buses. Oil prices are going up, and quantities falling.

Bulgaria has been hit badly. It has its own petro-chemical industry, based on Soviet oil, and its profits have been correspondingly eroded.

Electricity exports to Turkey have had to be reduced, and Bulgaria is becoming a significant importer of coal from Britain and the U.S. To finance this and large grain imports to compensate for a bad harvest, Bulgaria is starting to borrow more from the West: a \$200 million (£130 million) loan from a group led by the National Westminster Bank has been followed by a \$200 million loan from Japan and there are plans for another \$200 million from West German banks.

Energy then is at the heart of the decline in the Bulgarian economy. It will be lucky to achieve 1.4 per cent growth this year, after healthy increases of 4 per cent or more over the past three years.

The harshness of the winter will determine whether this is to be a temporary hiccup, or whether Bulgaria will have to become a slow-growth big borrower to pay the Soviet price for keeping warm and oiling the wheels of industry.

Tomorrow: Poland

Eanes party pins hope on ex-Socialist

From Maritza de la Cal, Lisbon

Portugal's Democratic Renewal Party, made up of followers of President Eanes, has chosen a former Socialist, Senator Francisco Salgado Zenha, as its candidate in the January presidential elections.

Until recently Senator Zenha, a lawyer, was considered the number two man in the Socialist Party, but serious differences with Dr Mario Soares, the party leader and his life-long friend and colleague, led him to resign.

President Eanes has already publicly endorsed Senator Zenha as a candidate. His new party, which polled a surprising

19 per cent in last month's parliamentary elections, has been divided over its choice of a presidential candidate.

Some members support the left-wing former prime minister, (Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo). Party opposition caused President Eanes's first choice, Lieutenant-Colonel Costa Brás, to withdraw as a candidate.

Observers believe Senator Zenha may have a chance of winning if he can come second in the first round of voting, in which there are three other main candidates: Dr Pintasilgo, who has strong left-wing support; Dr Diogo Freitas do

Amaral, who has Social Democrat and Christian Democrat support, and Dr Soares.

The Communists have put up a candidate but are expected to encourage their members to vote for Senator Zenha.

With the left-wing vote divided among three candidates, Dr Freitas do Amaral is expected to win the first round. A recent poll gives him with 38.7 per cent; Dr Pintasilgo 22.8 per cent; Senator Zenha 16.3 per cent; and Dr Soares 8.3 per cent.

However, the other main candidate who goes through to the second round is expected to defeat Dr Freitas do Amaral.

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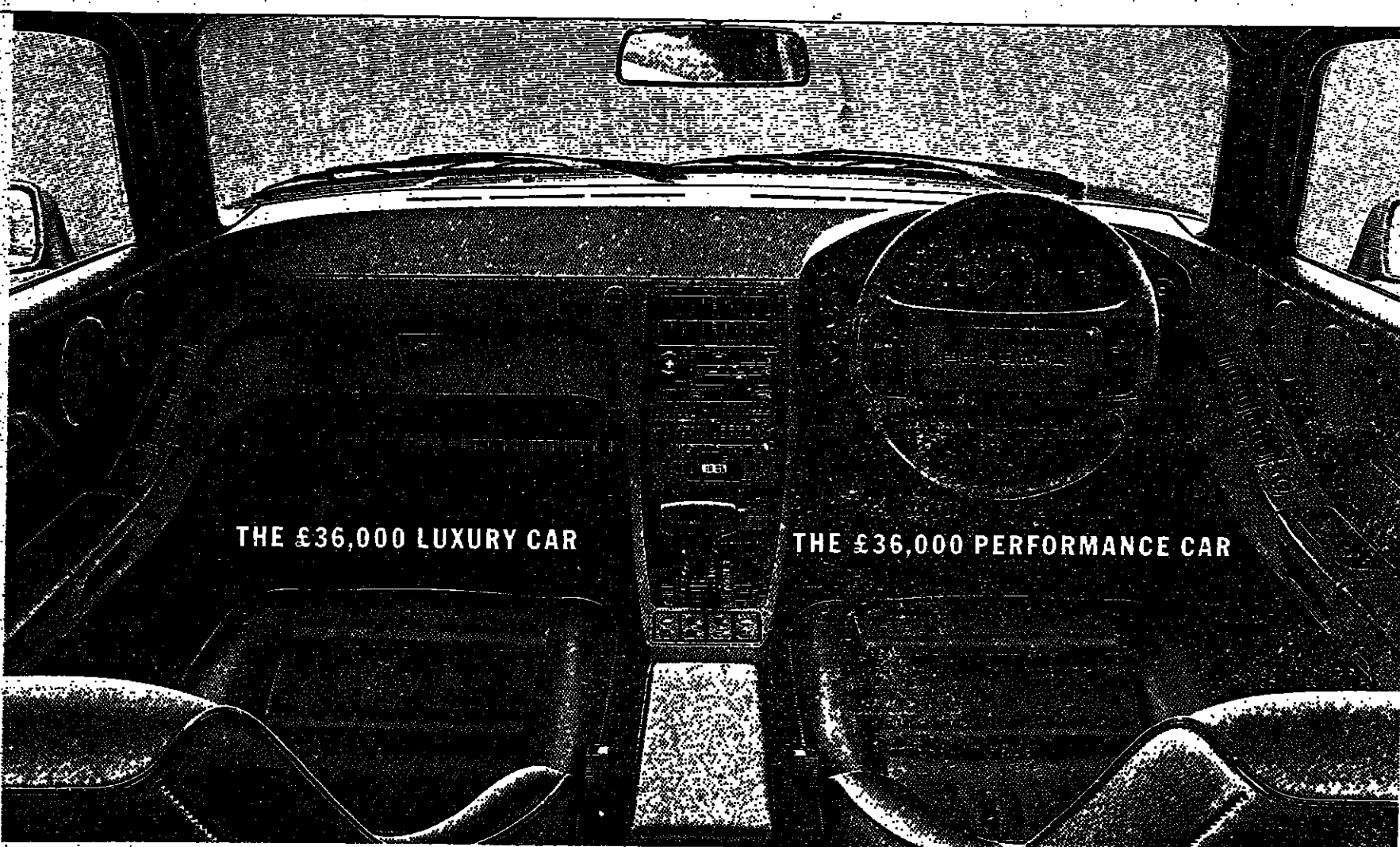
A fourteen-function safety warning system monitors everything from brake pad wear to tail lamp operation.

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PORSCHE BUILDING ON ACHIEVEMENT

The Malta hijack • Victims' ordeal • Athens was warned • Britain's support

Boeing passengers were lined-up for killing after mid-air gun battle

From Colin Hughes, Valetta

As the hijacking of Saturday night's Egyptian flight from Athens to Cairo turned into 24 hours of terror, the five hijackers mixed fruitless indifference to life with bizarre incompetence.

Of the five people shot in the waiting game, at least three will survive. Some women were, apparently at random, freed while all the children on board were slaughtered in the grisly denouement on Sunday night. Detailed accounts from survivors began yesterday to build the first picture of the hijack. The passengers who boarded the Boeing 737 to take off at 8pm Malta time were a varied crowd: they included two Israeli kibbutz girls taking a cheap route to the Bangkok trail, and a troupe of Filipino girls returning home to Manila from Cyprus.

Ten minutes after take-off, the smartly dressed hijackers, who had presented themselves in Athens as either Palestinian or Egyptian, but who were also reported to have been carrying Moroccan passports, stood up.

Their leader strode into the cockpit with a handgun and the plane to land and blacked out. The pilot was immediately ordered to head for Malta and as he changed course the remaining hijackers started to force the passengers to stand, one by one and to present their passports.

The four armed Egyptian security guards on the jet stood up and a hijacker was shot dead. A brief but fierce gun battle followed, ending with two stewardesses and one security guard badly wounded. A bullet had struck him in the leg, bounced off his shoulder bone and landed in his jacket pocket.

The other three guards were ordered to lie in the aisle while the grim line-up continued. Bullets had ripped through the fuselage and cabin pressure fell, forcing the pilot to descend.

happily towards Laga Airport near Valletta, Malta's capital.

Miss Julia Moleke, one of the Filipino dancers, said at St Luke's Hospital in Valletta yesterday: "During the gun fighting everyone hid their faces in their hands and behind seats and at the end of the shooting we could see one man lying and they piled newspapers over him which were soon soaked with blood."

"They were constantly aggressive, waving guns and shooting in everyone's faces but all the passengers kept quiet, not daring to speak or move. Then they separated everyone according to nationality."

The macabre reassembling was for more convenient and systematic killings. First in line were the two Israeli girls; then three Americans; then Austrians, Canadians and West Europeans. All those singled out for execution in the cause of aims the hijackers never stated to passengers, crew or negotiators, were put in the front left-hand rows. Children were sent to the rear.

The Maltese authorities raised permission for the plane to land and blacked out. Laga, closing the airport. But, at 9.30 pm the pilot used the lights of a parked Singapore Airlines jet to guide himself on to the short, older runway which has been the scene of four previous hijackings.

Initially conversation with the control tower was in English, though it switched to Arabic during the night. Mr Hamid Galal, the captain of the jet, insisted that only 30 minutes' fuel remained, and the hijackers throughout maintained only one demand: more fuel.

The Maltese authorities were at first ready to agree, but within one hour the second phase of violence began.

The two stewardesses suffering from bullet wounds were allowed to leave, followed by

the Filipino and Egyptian women. Then the hijackers took the first Israeli girl to the doorway, shot her, and pushed her body down the gangway steps.

The order of shooting remains unclear, but the only one to die was Miss Scarlet Rogenkamp, an American girl, aged 20, of Jewish descent. She died of head wounds.

The 707 stood one kilometre down the airfield from the airport terminal and directly opposite the control tower, enabling an Egyptian Army C130 carrying 24 commandos to land on the longer runway on the other side of the airfield, where it was spotted shortly after dawn. Ambassadors from Egypt and Libya, where it was thought the hijackers intended to continue, and from the United States began to arrive.

At 9.55am one of the hijackers, without warning, stepped out on to the top of the steps with a woman aged 30 and shot her in the head.

Talks continued throughout the day, with the hijackers variously seeking to speak to Algerian representatives, but mostly talking direct to the Maltese Prime Minister, Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, who refused refuelling unless all the passengers were released. At 3pm a van was allowed to take away the body of the woman, who was yesterday critically ill in hospital.

As time passed the captain became convinced that the jet would be stormed and, in one of his last radio messages, told the control tower that all the aircraft's doors were locked from the inside. Aircraft heading to Malta were diverted and a blackout imposed at 7.55pm. At 9.05 the captain called for a man to change the aircraft's toilets saying there was "a terrible stink", and that everyone was suffering, especially the children.

Miss Tamary Artzy, one of



Maltese troops carry the body of a passenger killed when the 737 was stormed.

the Israelis, was brought screaming to the doorway. "I was shouting at them not to shoot and struggling to get away," she said yesterday. "He stood there with the gun pointing at my head from a metre away and as he went to shoot I turned and fell."

The bullet passed through her ear at point-blank range and embedded itself below her eye, but she was sitting up in her hospital bed yesterday.

Mr Patrick Scott-Baker, an American, was pushed to the floor and a shot aimed at his head, but the bullet passed through his neck. He feigned death and was shoved down the

steps on to the tarmac. Then the security guard who was hit in the shoot-out was pushed from the plane.

By now the Maltese authorities, having witnessed the last body at 2.18 am on Sunday morning, had decided they would not succumb to the terrorists, but negotiated a medical team to collect what were a pile of corpses.

As threats of a fifth shooting came from the leading hijacker the captain insisted repeatedly to the control tower: "He is serious. I will hold you responsible for any more killings."

Then, at 3.05 am, the radio talking stopped and the four towers of floodlights which overlooked the tarmac where the plane was parked were extinguished.

At 9.20 the Egyptian commando blew out an entrance to the cargo hold and a door over the starboard wing to attempt their assault.

Only minutes later Maltese television was carrying an urgent demand for all doctors, nurses and medical staff on duty or on leave to report immediately to St Luke's: they had a death toll of 60 and 30 injured to deal with.

Leading article, page 17

Militias enforce truce in Beirut

Beirut - A tense truce took hold in west Beirut yesterday after five days of heavy fighting between rival Shia Muslim and Druse militias in which 68 people were killed and nearly 300 others wounded (Our Correspondent writes).

The truce was seen to be effective, a measure of the militia leaders' determination to end the fighting even if it meant shooting their own men. One Druse militia commander provided a deadly demonstration of that determination when he shot dead one of his own men who refused to stop firing at positions held by the Shia Amal militia.

US hostage, page 16

Göring's yacht sold for £73,000

Bonn - A luxury yacht once owned by Hermann Göring and bought by a West German journalist involved in the Hitler diary case was auctioned for £73,000 (A Correspondent writes).

It was put up for compulsory sale in Hamburg at the demand of a bank creditor of Gerd Heidemann, aged 53, the former Stern magazine reporter, who is serving four years and eight months in prison for the diaries fraud.

Honduran count

Tegucigalpa (AP) - The ruling Liberal Party and Señor Oscar Mejía Arellano, one of its four candidates for President, led its traditional rival, the Nationalist Party, with 20 per cent of the votes counted, in the Honduran general election. Señor Mejía Arellano is the choice of outgoing President Somoza Córdoba.

Too few maids

Peking (Reuters) - A shortage of housemaids has given affluent residents here some difficult new to complain about. The China Daily said there were 36,000 housemaids in Peking, more than three times the number 20 years ago but still well short of the 90,000 needed.

Crew demoted

Tokyo (Reuters) - Japan Air Lines demoted the cockpit crew of a jumbo jet which strayed towards Soviet air space last month, with the captain reduced to co-pilot status for four months and the co-pilot to undergo two months' retraining.

Basque bomb

Madrid - A parked car loaded with explosives blew up as a convoy of Spanish Navy vehicles was passing in the Basque city of San Sebastian, killing two seamen.

Sikh endorsed

Chandigarh (Reuters) - A leadership crisis in Punjab ended with the head of the main Sikh political party, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, winning a vote of confidence.

Scared to vote

Lima (Reuters) - Threats of violence from Maoist guerrillas reduced the turnout in mayoral elections in a tenth of Peru's towns, election officials said.

Rodent round-up

Lisbon (Reuters) - The city council here launched a campaign to rid the capital of rats and mice which are estimated to outnumber the two million citizens by four to one.

Correction

A report from Bogotá, published on November 19, which stated that the Nicaraguan authorities had refused permission for two British helicopters to overfly Nicaragua or land there for refuelling, was incorrect. The British Embassy in Managua has pointed out that Nicaragua gave full cooperation, allowing the helicopters to land and refuel at Managua airport before continuing their journey to Colombia.

Link with Frankfurt car-bomb suspected

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The Malta hijack and the weekend bombing of a US military shopping centre in Frankfurt may both have been the work of terrorist groups run by Abu Nidal, the Palestinian extremist, according to an initial assessment of the incidents in London.

Details of the attacks have been circulated to anti-terrorist experts in a number of European capitals. Factors in both incidents are said to suggest the influence of Abu Nidal.

During preparations for the Frankfurt bombing, the BMW car which was used was bought by a "Moroccan-looking man" who spoke bad German, Abu Nidal is reported to have pledged recently to attack Nato targets and there has long been antipathy to the Americans.

The fact that the hijackers who died in Malta included at least one Syrian or Syrian passport-holder is also said to point to Abu Nidal. Syria has provided a base for him in the past.

Abu Nidal has earned a fearsome reputation in recent years as leader of an extreme

Palestinian group which ranged widely in its attacks. He is exposed in the PLO against which he has mounted attacks, in addition to Western targets.

● BONN: Three of the 35 people injured in the Frankfurt attack were still in hospital yesterday as security men joined police in the hunt for the attackers (Our Correspondent writes).

Police at first believed the blast was probably the work of the West German Red Army Group, which claimed responsibility for a car-bomb attack on the US Air Force Rhine-Main base near Frankfurt in August. Two Americans were killed and 16 people injured.

However, a spokesman for the public prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe, which is leading the investigation, said yesterday: "There is now also a theory that the bomb could have been laid by foreigners."

The people in hospital are a US Army sergeant, the wife of another sergeant and a shopping centre employee. None was said to be in a serious condition.



Experts searching for clues in the debris-strewn parking lot after the weekend car-bomb blast in Frankfurt.

Tip-off put Athens on alert

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Athens airport was placed on increased security 24 hours before the hijacking of the Egyptian airliner, after a tip-off from the Americans. According to Greek officials, this

minimizes, if not eliminates, the possibility that the hijackers' weapons were smuggled on board through Athens airport.

Mr George Papadimitropoulos, the Athens airport commander, revealed to The Times that on Friday he had received from the US Federal Aviation Agency a warning of an impending hijack attempt in late November. No country and no particular airport were cited.

"We stepped up all security measures at once," he said. "Seeing that this is the off-season, traffic was minimal on Saturday. Our personnel had been trained intensively. One week before we had been inspected by the Federal Aviation Agency. And it just happened that the Egyptian airline had an extra baggage

check before passengers boarded the plane. We were in top form and ready."

The airport commander said he could not believe that such bulky weapons as at least three hand grenades could have slipped through this tight security net. He stopped short of suggesting that they had been hidden on board for the hijackers to find.

However, Mr Theodoros Tsouras, the Minister of State for Public Order, also rejecting the view that the weapons had passed through Athens, said he did not rule out that some Cairo accomplice of the hijackers had secreted them on board the plane there.

Western diplomats in Athens, who have been monitoring the improved security measures at Athens airport, agreed that the precautions there were "more than satisfactory." One anonymous source who recounted with relief how he is always stopped by security guards when he tries to enter the "clean" areas of

Athens airport, said it would be gross injustice if Greece were to be penalized with boycotts for being more lax on security than other countries. "I simply do not think this is true any longer," he said.

A Greek Government spokesman said yesterday he was not aware of any boycott threat. "Such a move would be senseless, considering that Athens airport security is on a par with international standards," he said.

Other Western security experts said that, although on the passenger side Athens airport security met or even exceeded international standards, two other areas did not inspire the same degree of confidence.

Commander Papadimitropoulos agreed that the screening of airport personnel was a problem in all airports. "We cannot say officially that there has been progress there."

He said the new 11-mile wire-mesh fence of Athens airport was already under construction

and would be ready by the end of the year. "In the meantime," he added, "we are being protected by 250 Greek Air Force troops who use armoured patrol cars."

The Athens airport commander said a C130 military transport plane had been dispatched to Malta to fetch the Greek passengers of the hijacked plane and the bodies of those killed. Reports said that all but five of the 17 Greeks on board, all seamen on their way to ports of embarkation, had been killed.

The Greek Government so far has refrained from commenting on the events at Valletta airport, arguing it wants to have all the facts to judge whether the assault by Egyptian troops was needed or not. But a government statement criticized the Maltese Government for failing to consult Athens before the attack, considering the large numbers of Greek passengers involved.

Airlines mission to check security at Cairo airport

By Our Foreign Staff

An International Air Transport Association (IATA) mission will travel to Cairo today to study airport security conditions. A spokesman said a similar mission was also possible to Athens, but this would require prior Greek Government approval.

He said the arms used in the weekend hijack could have been put on board in Cairo. "It cannot be absolutely sure the passengers had arms with them on embarkation at Athens."

The Cairo mission had been envisaged for several weeks, but was made urgent by the latest hijack. The spokesman declined to say if Cairo airport was on any late blacklist of "dangerous" airports.

IATA, which represents the majority of international air-

lines, sent inspectors to Athens airport in June after the hijack of a US Trans World Airlines jet. Later security measures by the Greek authorities were judged satisfactory by IATA and the US Federal Aviation Authority.

Meanwhile the British Airline Pilots Association said Security at Athens airport was now tight and it would be "surprising" if weapons used in the hijack were smuggled through there.

Mr Freddie Yetman, the organization's technical secretary, said the association had been closely monitoring the situation since the TWA hijack in June and was generally satisfied with arrangements at the Greek capital.

"At the time of the TWA incident we reacted angrily

about security at Athens. We complained through our international body and wrote to the British airlines asking what they intended to do about it. We have found since that time that security has been considerably tightened, and until today, we have been satisfied with these improvements."

He said the association was surprised to hear that Athens was being blamed and would have to wait for the full facts before condemning security at the airport. Cairo was not considered to be a "problem airport" with security there being "quite good," he said.

The French Airline Pilots Association declared yesterday that they were opposed to the presence of armed guards on board passenger aircraft. Their

presence, the association said, was "totally unsuitable and even dangerous."

The Swedish Airline Pilot's Association said yesterday that it would press for a total boycott of Athens airport. Mr Erik Levin, chairman of the association, said consultations were being held with the Danish and Norwegian pilots' associations.

Mr Levin said he hoped for strong pressure to get a complete boycott of Athens by all big international airline pilots.

The West German Interior Minister, Herr Friedrich Zimmermann was quoted yesterday as calling for a boycott of Athens airport.

But the manager of the West German pilots association, said he saw no reason to boycott Athens airport.

Pretoria dialogue group named

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, yesterday announced that final agreement had been reached on the composition of the group of seven eminent persons which the Commonwealth's Nassau summit decided to establish to encourage a dialogue between the South African Government and representative black leaders towards ending apartheid.

After the refusal of Mr Pierre Trudeau, the former Canadian Prime Minister, to join the group, Mr Ramphal revealed that Canada's nominee on the committee will be the Most Rev Edward Scott, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

The other six members of the group are: Mr Malcolm Fraser, former Prime Minister of Australia; General Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria; Lord Barber, former Minister of Health and chairman of the Conservative Party; Dame Nita Barrow, a president

of the World Council of Churches; Mr John Malcrcla, former Tanzanian Foreign Minister; and Mr Swaran Singh, former Minister of External Affairs in India.

Mr Fraser and General Obasanjo will act as co-chairmen of the group. It will hold its first meeting in London early next month.

Members of the group hope to hold talks either jointly or separately, with as broad a spectrum of opinion as possible. Pretoria has not yet said whether it will talk to the group.

If no progress is made within six months, the Commonwealth will consider imposing new sanctions against South Africa.

● JOHANNESBURG: A black student nurse sacked from Soweto's Baragwanath Hospital, which was crippled by a strike last week, had been burnt to death by a mob because she tried to get her job back (Ray Kennedy writes). Miss Nontandazo Sishi, aged 23, was

accused of being a "sell-out". Her mother also died when her home was set on fire.

More than 800 students at the hospital were dismissed last week after they struck over the imposition of a curfew and being forced to do the work of striking orderlies and hospital labourers.

Meanwhile, security police approached the Dean of Johannesburg after he was charged with a sex offence and offered to quash the case if he became an informer, the Right Rev Desmond Tutu, Anglican bishop of Johannesburg, has claimed.

The Very Rev Mervyn Edwin Castle was convicted by a Johannesburg magistrate on Friday of committing an unnatural sexual offence with a black man in a parked car and sentenced to a fine of 600 rands (\$162) or three months' jail.

The fine was paid immediately by Bishop Tutu, and it was announced at the weekend that Mr Castle has resigned as dean.

Extra day for European talks on refugee crisis

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Mr Poul Hartling, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, left Sweden yesterday without comment after a secret seven-nation meeting to discuss the mounting refugee crisis in Europe.

Members of Mr Hartling's staff stayed in Stockholm and the meeting was unexpectedly extended until today.

It is understood that Mr Hartling encountered considerable resistance to his pleas for less restrictive immigration policies from the seven countries involved: Britain, West Germany, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands.

Mr Hartling was told that the UN should work to stem the flood of refugees from the Middle East, Africa and the Indian sub-continent, which is expected to rise to 150,000 this year.

The meeting was closed to the press and the Swedish Ministry of Labour, which arranged the event, refused to reveal its location. It was described as "top secret" by the national news agency TT.

However, Mrs Anita Edam, an information secretary at the Ministry of Labour, said last night that there was a possibility of a statement of some kind being issued when the meeting ends today.

The commissioner asked the seven countries for more humane treatment of refugees by police and immigration authorities. Coinciding with Mr Hartling's visit, two Iranian refugees, denied political asylum in Norway and awaiting deportation to Turkey, fled their police guard, crossed the border to Sweden and asked for asylum.

US holds another spy suspect

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

A former communications specialist with the United States National Security Agency (NSA), a Pentagon group specializing in high-tech eavesdropping and code-breaking, was arrested yesterday and accused of conspiracy to pass secrets to the Soviet Union. He was the fourth alleged spy to be arrested by the US in five days.

Reagan Administration officials said he had been identified by Mr Vitaly Yurchenko, the Soviet intelligence officer who allegedly defected to the West in the summer but who returned to Moscow early this month after saying he had been kidnapped and drugged by US intelligence officers.

The Administration officials said that at least three former US intelligence officers had been named as spies by Mr Yurchenko.

Ronald William Pelton, aged 44, from Washington DC, was arrested at a hotel in Annapolis, Maryland, and charged with

violating Federal law concerning the gathering of defence information for a foreign government. The FBI said that Mr Pelton, now a host salesman, had been employed as a communications specialist by the NSA from 1965 to 1979.

Mr Pelton is alleged to have gone to the Soviet Embassy in Washington for the first time in 1980 and to have been paid about \$35,000 (£24,000) since then for providing US defence secrets, according to Administration officials.

The current spate of arrests started on Thursday, when Jonathan Pollard, a civilian analyst for the US Navy, was arrested and charged with selling classified military documents to a foreign government, believed to be Israel. Ann Henderson-Pollard, aged 25, his wife, was charged the following day with gathering or delivering defence information.

The recent spate of arrests is attributed to increased efforts by the CIA and the FBI rather than to any mysterious surge in spying activities.

Larry Wu-Tai Chin, aged 63, a former CIA intelligence analyst, was charged on Friday with selling US secrets to China.

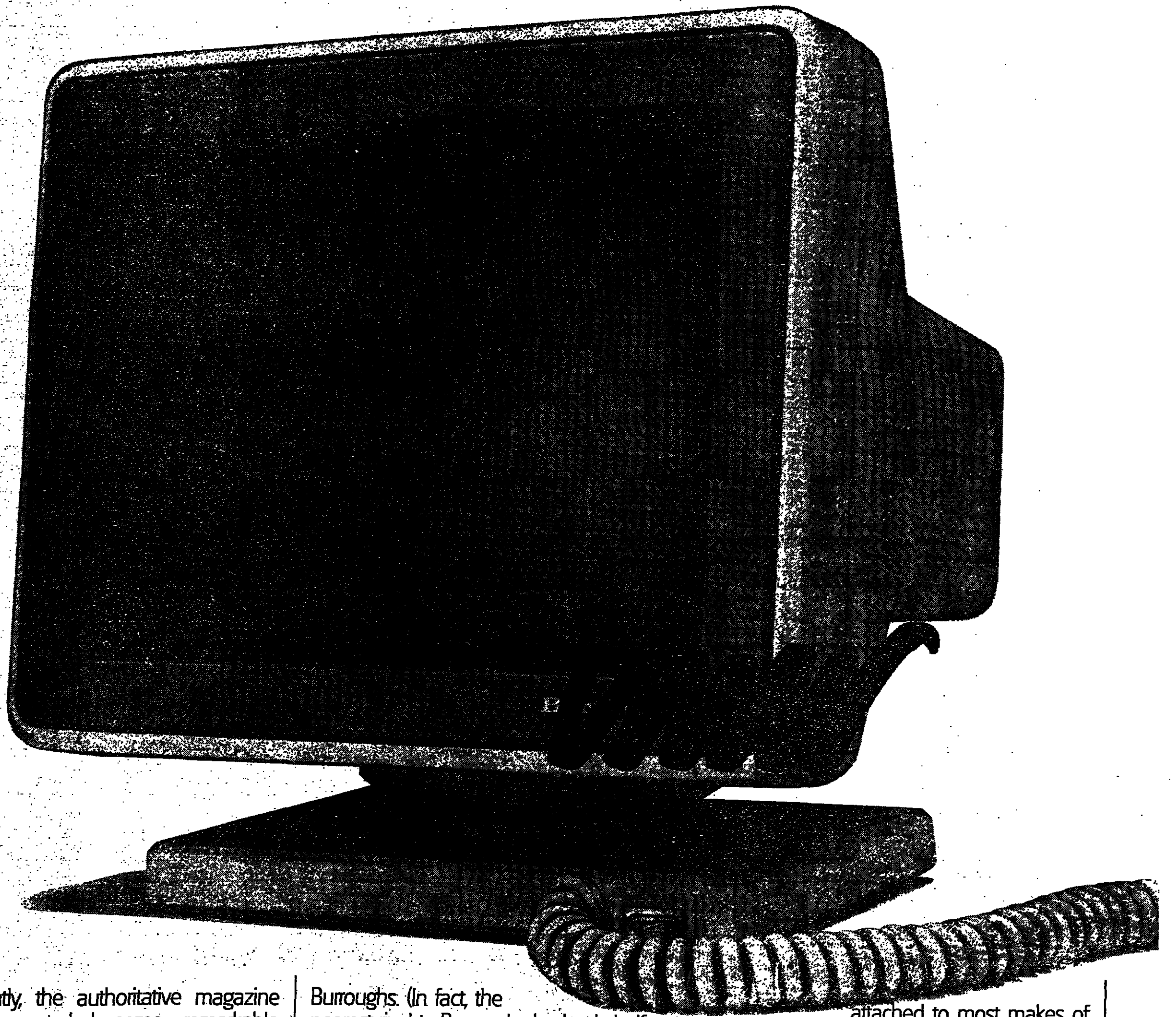


Vitaly Yurchenko: tip-off to Americans.

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A tense scene
in Beirut after
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Lange dashes hopes of early release for jailed French agents

From Richard Long, Wellington

Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, yesterday dashed French hopes of an early return for their imprisoned agents, saying they would not be deported during the term of his Government, which would continue until September 1987.

His comments were a blow for the agents, who were jailed last week for 10 years on manslaughter charges and who appeared in court again yesterday on charges of using false passports. It was also a blow for the French Government, which had hoped that, even if the pair did not get released by Christmas, they might return before the elections next March.

Captain Dominique Prieur, aged 36, and Major Alain Mafart, aged 35, were convicted and remanded in custody under the provisions of the Immigration Act when they appeared in court in Auckland again yesterday on charges of entering the country on false Swiss passports under the names of Alain and Sophie Turange. Major Mafart admitted three passport-related charges and Captain Prieur admitted two. Last week they were jailed for manslaughter for their part in the sabotage of the Greenpeace protest ship Rainbow Warrior and the death of a crew member, Fernando Pereira.

At a press conference in

Another nuclear test at Mururoa atoll

France exploded a nuclear device at its Mururoa atoll test ground in the South Pacific yesterday, New Zealand seismologists said in Wellington (AP reports). The blast, with an estimated yield of seven kilotons, was the seventh this year.

Wellington after the sentencing. Mr Lange hinted that there were two reasons for the government not acting to deport the agents, as it has the power to do under the Criminal Justice Act. He indicated that it would be politically untenable for the Government to take the step and that it would also endanger the public attitude to the courts.

One sure method of assisting the opposition National Party to gain seats in the next election would be pictures of the two agents sunning themselves in the south of France in September, 1987, Mr Lange said. "You have asked me if in the life of this government, will they be deported? The answer to that is No."

Mr Lange also asked how the public would view a deportation move. "What do you say to a young person in New Zealand who has been subjected to the sanction of the court for some minor act, told to

conform to the law and lead an upright life and then to see a Government flouting off two prisoners - you cannot do that." Deportation would be seen as an act of selling the two prisoners. "It would be wrong for any respect we had in the World Community for us to be seen doing it," he said.

As for the opposition Coalition call in France for President Mitterrand to use trade sanctions to block New Zealand produce entering the European Community's market, Mr Lange said: "That to me is not the statement of a person extolling the great virtues of France - it is the bully-boy approach to international life. Such an approach would be outrageous and unlikely."

Captain Prieur is reported to have cried into her pillow in prison in Auckland the night after the sentencing. Major Mafart said he had confidence in the French Government's ability to obtain his release.

PARIS: The French Prime Minister, M. Laurent Fabius, appeared untroubled by Mr Lange's statement that the two French agents would not be deported (Susan MacDonald reports).

The judicial phase has ended, he said, "and a government-to-government phase now begins. We will start making the necessary contacts in line with our objective, which is that these French officers should be returned to France."

Electoral comeback for Spanish centre

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Most commentators in Spain agreed yesterday that the real winner of the regional elections in Galicia was the organisation which came in third, the Galician Coalition, and that its performance may have repercussions on a national scale.

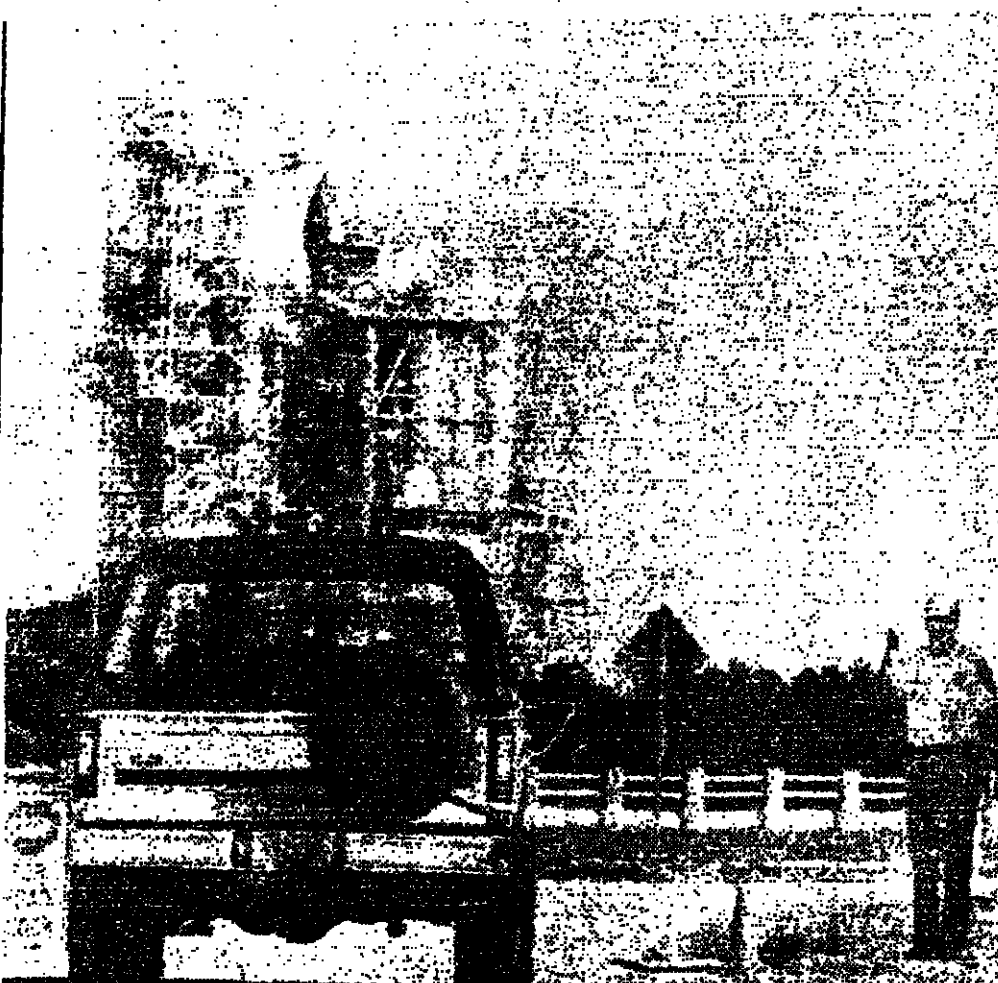
Both main parties, the conservative Popular Coalition and the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), won more seats than in the previous Galician elections in 1981, yet for each it was less than a satisfactory showing.

The Popular Coalition, led by the former Franco minister and former Ambassador to London, Señor Manuel Fraga, increased its number of seats in the 71-seat regional parliament from 26 to 34, with 99 per cent of the votes counted, but it failed to achieve Señor Fraga's goal of winning a majority. The Socialists, in power nationally but facing a general election not later than next autumn, increased their number of seats in the regional parliament from 16 to 23, but got a smaller percentage of the Galician vote than they did in the 1982 general election which installed them in government in Madrid.

The Galician Coalition, a regionally oriented party making its first appearance in elections, captured 11 seats, making it the deciding factor for passage of any legislation. It is part of a loose alliance of regional parties in various parts of the country put together by a Catalan moderate, Señor Miquel Roca.

His achievement in Galicia is looked upon here as a resurgence of the political centre, after the disintegration of the Centre Democratic Union in 1981.

The former Prime Minister, Señor Adolfo Suárez, failed to win a single seat for his Social Democratic Centre Party.



Shuttle set for launch

A security guard at Cape Canaveral in Florida waves on a car near the launch pad of the US space shuttle Atlantis, due to be launched tonight on a week-long mission to test space station construction techniques and launch three communications satellites.

Astronauts Jerry Ross and Sherwood Spring will work outside the spacecraft to test techniques for building a proposed \$11 billion (\$7.6 billion) space station.

The crew of seven, including the first Mexican astronaut will also deploy three communications satellites.

Soviet tirade mars Budapest good will

From Richard Bassett, Budapest

Amid bitter accusations from the Soviet Union that the United States practised "cultural and physical genocide", the European Cultural Forum was expected to end yesterday without producing a substantive concluding document.

The forum, part of the conference on security and co-operation in Europe, provides for a unanimous final resolution, but the vehemence of the Soviet attack, delivered at a hastily called press conference, shattered the atmosphere of goodwill which had largely prevailed, despite some acerbic exchanges during the six weeks of talks.

Employing rhetoric redolent of the Cold War, the Soviet Deputy Minister of Culture, Mr Goryunov, told Western journalists that the US had utter contempt for the fate of every single individual. His attitude to the cultural forum had "torpedoed" the chance of a useful final document ever seeing the light of day.

Mr Goryunov's stern rebukes were not limited to the US. Like a headmaster delivering bad news of term reports, he listed other delegations which he said

had conspired with America to "kill" the final document. In this list Britain came almost top followed closely by Switzerland. Norway also ranked high.

Western delegates expressed surprise at the outburst but had been prepared for the East to block any final document after negotiations into the early hours had left both sides deadlocked.

The Soviet Union's intransigence will severely disappoint several Eastern delegations, notably Poland and Hungary, for whom a concluding document is of considerable value.

The West, for its part, can generally live without one preferring implementation rather than drafting, but several Western delegates feared that the European security conference process would prove futile if the Russians continued to ignore the wishes of minor powers on both sides.

Others, however, were more optimistic, including Mr Norman St John-Stevas, head of the British delegation, who, quoting the Duke of Wellington, observed in his concluding speech that "success in battle required 'hard pounding'".



Mr Josma "disappeared" from military hospital

Dingo case mother's plea refused

Sydney - An application for the release of Mrs Lindy Chamberlain, who is serving a life sentence for the murder of the baby daughter she maintains was taken from her by a wild dog, has been rejected by the Northern Territory Government (Stephen Taylor writes).

Mr Marshall Perron, Attorney-General of the territory, announced his decision yesterday on the move by Mrs Chamberlain's lawyers to have her released on licence, but declined to elaborate.

Mrs Chamberlain has been in prison since April, 1983, having been convicted of murdering her 10-week-old baby Azaria.

NZ journalists lose new technology fight

From Our Correspondent, Wellington

Journalists have lost the first round in their battle with their proprietors over new technology. They returned to work yesterday after an 11-day strike which failed to gain assurances that non-union staff would not be used for strike-breaking in the future.

At the heart of the dispute was a fear by the 900 striking members of the NZ Journalists' Union that new technology would reduce their industrial muscle. The journalists sought, but failed to receive, an assurance that non-union staff - such as duty editors - would not be used to break stoppages.

Most newspapers, except for those in the Auckland region,

were affected. Nearly 20 dailies either ceased publication or were reduced to giveaways. An Englishman and an Australian have been given the two most powerful positions in New Zealand broadcasting (Reuters reports). The New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation said yesterday that Mr Julian Mounter had been appointed director-general of Television New Zealand, while Mr Nigel Dick would become the corporation's chief executive.

Mr Mounter, aged 41, has worked as a reporter, producer and senior executive with the BBC, Thames Television and London Weekend Television.

Crusade by Mrs Ecevit

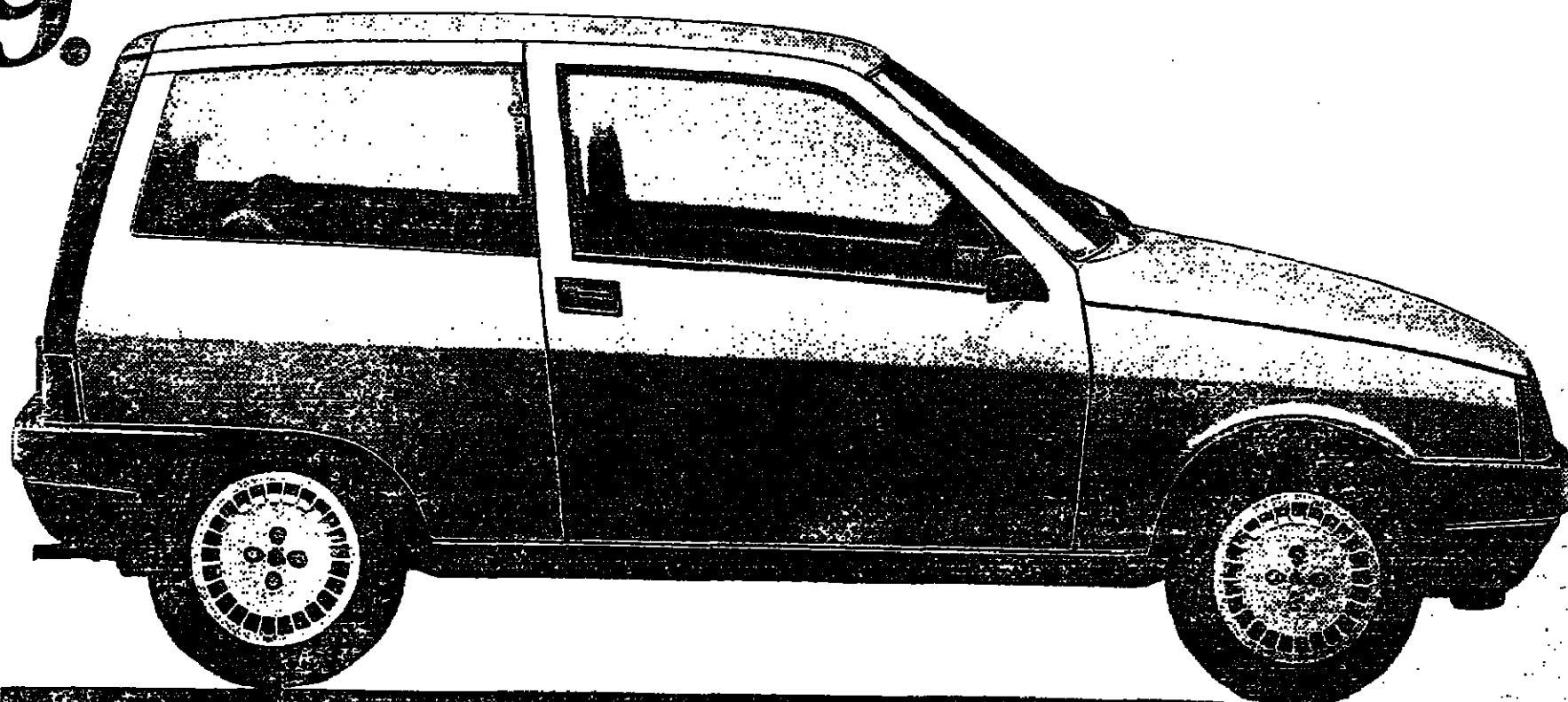
Ankara - Turkey's New Democratic Left Party (DSP) has elected Mrs Rahsan Ecevit, wife of the former Social Democrat Prime Minister, Mr Bulent Ecevit, to head its crusade against both the rival Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP) and the Conservative Government of Mr Turgut Ozal (Rasit Gurdilek writes).

Mrs Ecevit, unanimously declared chairwoman by the party's founders at the weekend, relayed a message from her husband saying that he would still need his help seven years from now, when the restrictions run out.

She then attacked the rival SHP, accusing it of falsely claiming to represent the country's Social Democrats.

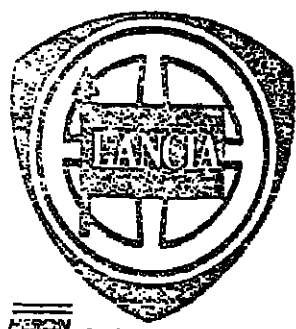
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THE ARTS

Galleries

A celebration of painting

The Artist's Eye: Francis Bacon
National Gallery

Homage to Barcelona
Hayward

Kevin Coates
Victoria and Albert Museum

Walking into the National Gallery's Sunley room must be among the most uplifting public experiences available to Londoners today. The pleasure does not merely lie in Francis Bacon's concentration of 14 of the collection's masterpieces in one room (until December 15). Bacon's choice cuts through period and style; the works have been assessed purely on their inherent qualities as paintings. The spacious hanging and juxtaposition of pictures has been judged on their impact on the eye. It was no accident that the eye which grouped them together happens to be one of the greatest of the century. It is good to see the National Gallery renewing its long and close association with living artists in such an uncompromising manner.

In his own work Bacon is concerned with making and remaking images. He dislikes stories because they disperse attention, and he is only interested in concentrating emotion on the canvas. It is hardly surprising therefore to find on the first wall two portraits of Margaretha de Geer, Jacob Trip's wife. Severing the

head from the rest of the body with the massive ruff. Rembrandt focuses on the former. Tension is added by the hands, but the sheer power of the personality comes from the head.

Tracing influences on Bacon is not the main point of the exhibition. The artist underlines this by refusing to take advantage of his right to include one of his own works. He is his own fiercest critic, which is further indicated by the omission of Raphael's *Julius II*, on which Velázquez based his *Infante X*, which in turn inspired Bacon's famous series of screaming popes. The artist's pictorial language has developed, so instead he chose Velázquez's *Rokeby Venus* and contrasted her against Degas's pastel *Woman Drying Herself*. Degas, in his positioning of models in interiors, undoubtedly helped Bacon achieve his own intense figures enclosed in domestic walls.

The Artist's Eye demonstrates time and again how painters can concentrate years of emotion on to one canvas - the execution of an emperor in Manet, a train and a hare hurtling out of Stuttgart, the contemplation of the secret life of a Velázquez woman. This small exhibition is a celebration of painting. Confronted by Michelangelo's *Entombment*, awed into silence, most people will recognize Bacon's wisdom: "Painting is its own language and is not translatable into words".

It is said that Bacon's own exhibition at the Tate has now departed to Stuttgart, because an understanding of his knowledge of painting will win him new friends. After visiting the Hayward's latest show, *Homage to Barcelona: The City and its Art 1888-1936* (until February

23), you might decide to take a trip to include both Stuttgart and Barcelona. The Barcelona show is in extreme contrast to *The Artist's Eye*. There are very few masterpieces in the Hayward, and it is shoddily presented; the lively spirit of the city is created by brilliant slide-shows and a strange process of osmosis.

Homage to Barcelona is clever in that it introduces the visitor to the city in a natural manner. Its two main achievements are in giving an illuminating idea of the city from which Picasso emerged and producing a triumphant display of Gaudí's architecture. Picasso's debt to the city goes far beyond the influence of local painters; the organizers of the exhibition have crammed the low-ceilinged galleries with decorative arts and constantly flash images of the Mediterranean city's rich, flamboyant architecture.

Barcelona is famous for its exhibitions. Indeed the present show spans the period between the Universal Exhibition of 1888 and the International Exhibition of 1929 and a little beyond. It is not only Picasso's, Dalí's and Miró's international connections that are stressed, but the series of ambitious town-planning designs are seen as an endeavour to establish its world standing. From out of this serious intent, Gaudí's magnificent buildings and projects evolve to seize the imagination. It is as though the splendid art nouveau buildings of Glasgow and Brussels have got up and frolicked in the midday sun in all their summer colours.

Kevin Coates's exhibition at the Victoria and Albert (until January 9) gives us a revealing glimpse of the Strong vision of the future of museums. The



A language all its own: Michelangelo's unfinished *Entombment*

jewellery galleries have been redesigned not once but twice in the past 10 years, so the Director's anxieties over the display of the permanent collections should have been fully met. The well-lit cases appear to glow out into the dark rooms with the dull gold power of the six thousand jewels. Coates's contemporary work is blended carefully into the whole

though, sadly, the mixture of old and new can occasionally be counter-productive and this is one of the rare occasions. A comparison between *Athene Noctua*, the titanium blue jewel commissioned by the museum, and the Coates jewelery unfortunately is diminished by the splendour of the old.

cal theories may be interesting, but the emotional content is lacking. Whereas a Bacon could have sat happily in the Sunley room, because it would match the emotional and intellectual power of the other masterpieces, the Coates jewelery unfortunately is diminished by the splendour of the old.

Alistair Hicks

Theatre: Harold Pinter returns

Old Times
Henry Fonda,
Los Angeles

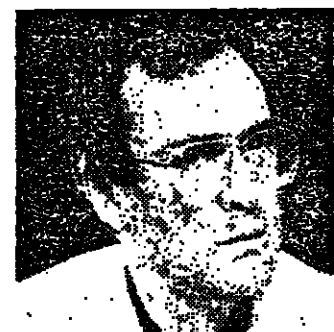
It has been almost twenty years since Harold Pinter last appeared on stage, so his American takeover of the role of Deeley in *Old Times* comes as an intriguing reminder of his origins as an actor in repertory and before that the touring companies of Wolfitt and McMaster in the early Fifties. This David Jones production of his play, now destined for Broadway early next year, is essentially the one that played at the Haymarket earlier this year with Pinter now stepping into Michael Gambon's shoes. The rest of the cast (Liv Ullmann and Nicola Pagetti) stays unchanged in Timothy O'Brien's chilly set.

Old Times has always been one of Pinter's most readily accessible plays, but his own performance lightens it considerably: where once it most seemed to owe allegiance to Sartre's *Huis Clos* and the notion of hell being other people, the play now resembles perhaps so much a latter-day *Design for Living*, also of course the work of an actor-author-director. Bisexuality and the

utter impossibility of living either apart or together are the themes of a curiously edgy, sardonic and cowardly triangle, one that reverberates to the sound of old films and even older musical memories.

It is not often that you get to hear Pinter sing "Blue Moon" and "All the Things You Are" or at any rate fragments thereof, and a play that derives much of its background from precise memories of *Odd Man Out* might seem well enough suited to a newly refurbished theatre on Hollywood Boulevard that has only recently been restored to its original function from years as a flea-pit cinema. But the average attention-span of a Hollywood audience is still brief, and perhaps because of the myth of Pinter as a dark and impenetrable writer audiences here seem unwilling as yet to laugh at what is intermittently a very funny play.

As in her London stage debut a few months ago, Liv Ullmann brings to an essentially hot-house evening that air of Scandinavian efficiency with which Ingrid Bergman used to blast through Shaw, allowing Nicola Pagetti (as the pawn in the power games being played by the two characters) to become the central focus of a sexual and territorial struggle



Pinter: shedding light

fought through to its conclusion in language that seems to have been lovingly hacked out of granite.

Three people in a room occupying different and occasionally overlapping dimensions of time and space: but it is Pinter alone here, nautically attired in a white jacket and matching socks, who nudges us towards the realization that this was always after all meant to be a kind of comedy as well as a drama of menace. His Los Angeles performance has already reportedly brought him several Hollywood acting offers, and he is soon to play Goldberg in a BBC television production of his *Birthday Party*. This could just be the new beginning of a long-abandoned stage and film career.

Sheridan Morley

Concert

ECO/Uchida
Queen Elizabeth Hall/
Radio 3

Mitsuko Uchida's Mozart concerto cycle is now sufficiently advanced for two trends to be spotted. First, this slender, Tokyo-born pianist looks as if she will attract 10 consecutive full houses, a mandarin point, perhaps, but doubtless gratifying to the English Chamber Orchestra in these uncertain times. Second, it is a remarkably consistent cycle so far, an even display of virtuosity (her technical blemishes to date can be counted on the fingers of no hands) and of temperament.

Indeed, the emotional level of the previous concert in the series struck me as being a little too flat and unresponsive to the music's potential depths. Here, however, there could be no doubting Miss Uchida's interpretative maturity. For after moving gracefully and with many a keenly-observed nuance through the comparatively lightweight concertos K238 and K246 she delivered an outstanding performance of the great E flat Concerto, K271.

The opening movement had been impressive enough, with a nicely calculated conversational tone at the outset and a cadenza where she had built excitement by accelerating through some well-pointed bass runs and then, with a telling softening of tone,

lingered as if entranced over the magical enharmonic modulation. But it was in the slow movement that her reading seemed most apt. She established a tragic atmosphere from the outset by encouraging the orchestra to accentuate the exposition's strident discord, and then she produced her weightiest timbre yet for the piano's arching contrapuntal contours. There was a properly sombre emphasis, too, on those emotive diminished chords, before Miss Uchida rounded the movement off with a cadenza of wonderful restraint and tranquility.

In the finale she returned to her more customary skimming dexterity. Her unaccompanied opening set a blistering pace which was still flexible enough to allow some delightfully poised phrasing. Here too there was contrast: the abrupt entry of the minuet heralded some noble and mellifluous playing from both orchestra and soloist.

Richard Morrison

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Television

Media exploitation

Torched cars, looted shops, running battles in the streets and mobs stoning the police - the images of racial tension have become familiar through television coverage. Images command our attention much more readily than issues; in *Race Against Prime Time* (Channel 4), an award-winning American documentary examining television news coverage of race riots in Miami in 1980, the social damage resulting from the local news coverage was vividly delineated.

In *Race Against Prime Time* the evidence was incontrovertible. Citizens in the Miami ghetto, however educationally deprived, were smart enough to notice that only acts of violence and lawlessness by their community drew the television crews - positive progress made by the black culture, or injustices perpetrated against Blacks, had low news value. In the local newsroom it emerged that the journalists' prime source of information had been the police radio frequencies.

As a result, the news media were presented and regarded as part of the overall white oppression. The television audience was offered an incoherent succession of violent images, which were stripped of their social and historical context as the broadcasting professionals unthinkingly complied with newsroom editors. In times of stress a journalist like a soldier is not encouraged to question commands. The Miami interviewees said they felt used by the medium.

Since the Civil Rights era of the late Sixties, American television has set up guidelines for the coverage of civil strife. These vary from station to station, but usually include a ban on the use of television lights at night, a ban on interviewing rioters, a ban on the use of identifiable cars and an injunction not to report violence while ignoring its cause. This last is evidently the hardest rule to keep.

Panorama (BBC1) needed to tread more carefully to compile a picture of Toxteth.

the ghetto area of Liverpool which is probably the most extreme example of black alienation in Britain. The chairman of the Liverpool Police Committee, Margaret Simey, said plainly that efforts to suppress the profound sense of injustice felt by the people of Toxteth would, in her opinion, lead to a catastrophe comparable to that of Ulster.

Many of the shortcomings identified in the American documentary had been avoided by the *Panorama* team, who had evidently been at pains to seek out genuine community leaders and representative citizens for interview in place of detached experts. This initiative was a little blunted by introducing these interviewees with mildly pejorative tags like "self-appointed" or "volatile", but the overall picture was of a cohesive and potentially stable neighbourhood.

What cannot be reported is as important as what is available for coverage in determining the balance of current affairs programming. In Miami in 1980 a radio station received over 1,000 calls protesting about white vigilantes cruising in a car shooting Blacks, but the item never made the news. In Liverpool this autumn the Roman Catholic Archbishop, Derek Warlock, was according to *Panorama*, almost run down by a police car being driven wildly down a pavement to intimidate the population, but the Archbishop would not be interviewed. The mechanism of news imbalance is evidently more complex than mere double standards held by broadcasters.

This was the last *Panorama* programme presented by the reporter Philip Tibenham, and a worthy farewell. It reported violence and also examined the cause, but there is evidently room for a much more positive initiative throughout British broadcasting; it will be good to see the day when a statistic like "90 per cent unemployment among Toxteth's Blacks" cannot be used without context.

Celia Brayfield

Pop music

Elaine Paige
Albert Hall

As a general rule, I try not to follow the trend in popular music criticism towards reviewing the audience rather than the show. Elaine Paige's audience, however, defined the mood of her concert to such a degree that it is impossible to ignore them.

Their tepid response to almost every stage of her performance suggested that they had been expecting something else altogether. Since the single exception occurred when they rose to welcome the unexpected appearance of Barbara Dickson, who joined Miss Paige to sing "I Know Him So Well" from *Chess*, perhaps they had been expecting somebody else altogether.

Rapture was otherwise strictly confined as the show's components were slotted into place under the direction of Michael Bogdanov. Predictably, he gave us Elaine as the first Evita in "Don't Cry For Me,

Argentina", Elaine as Grizabella in "Memory" from *Cats* and Elaine the plucky little trapper in "Absolutely Nothing" from *A Chorus Line*.

He should have spared us Elaine the teenage pop fan in cheap and nasty arrangements of various items from the Everly Brothers and others, and Elaine the soul singer, who proved in "I'm So Excited" and "This Will Be" to be embarrassingly deficient in the basic ability to swing.

Miss Paige belongs in the musical theatre, where she can rely on a script and her sudden bursts of script-braced shrillness can persuade coach parties to stop the show. Elaine being coquettish or sincere, though, is not the same thing at all as Evita being coquettish or sincere. Invited to "be herself" on the concert platform, she and her audience make the mutually depressing discovery that there is no significant self for her to be.

Richard Williams

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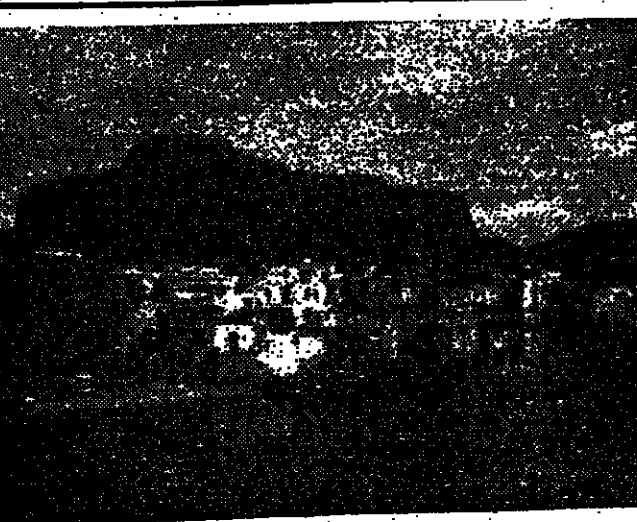
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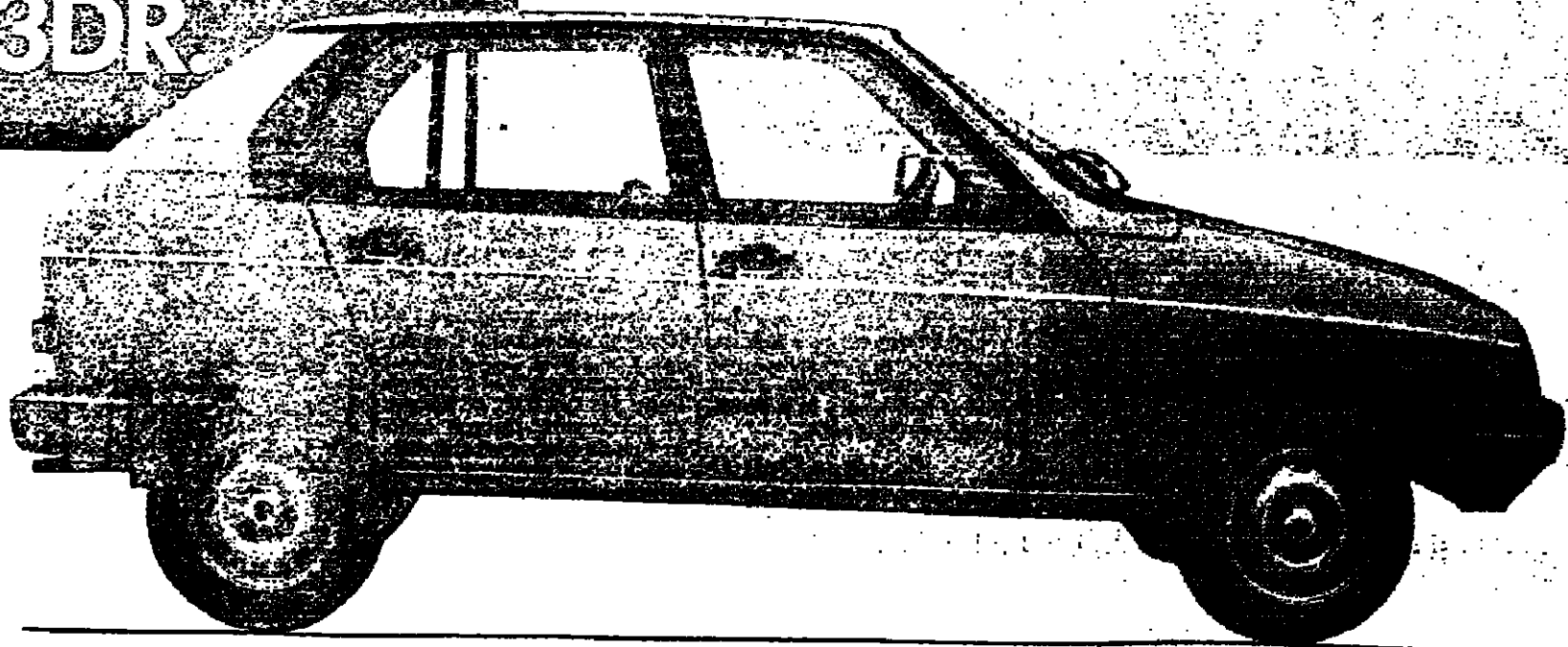
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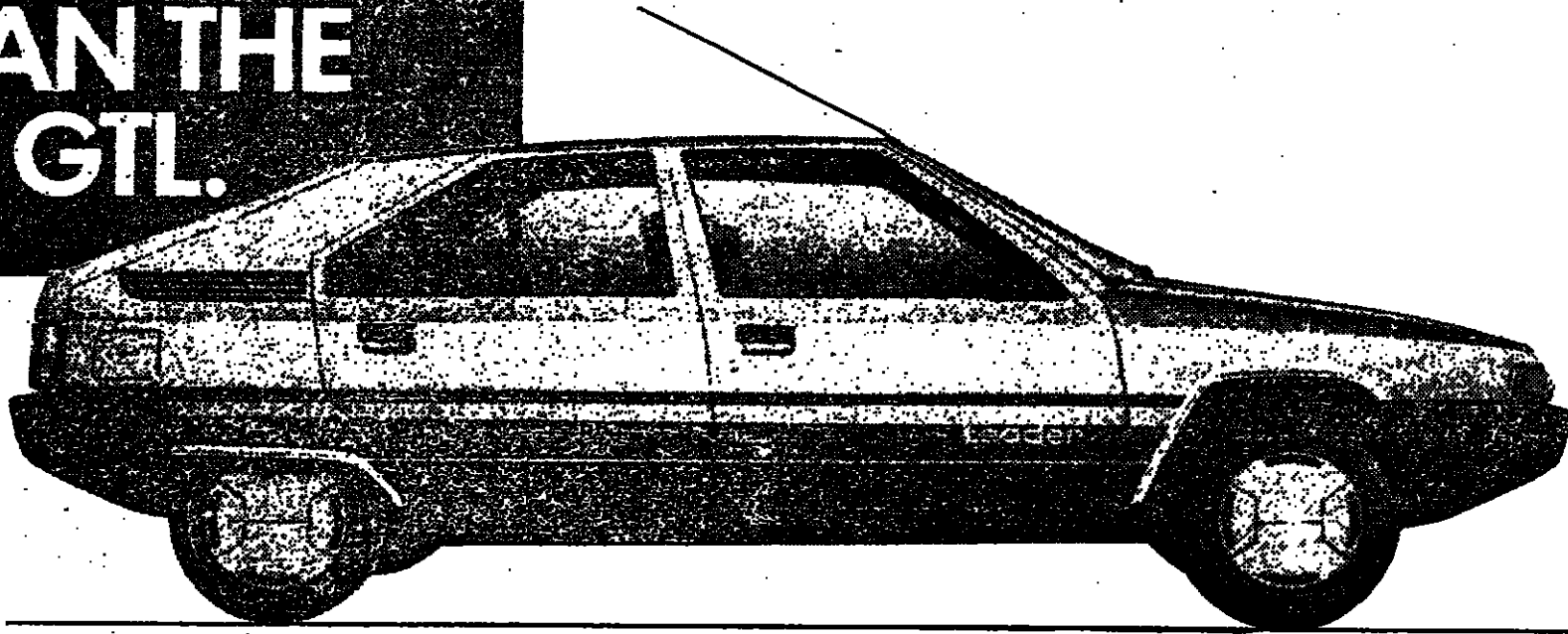
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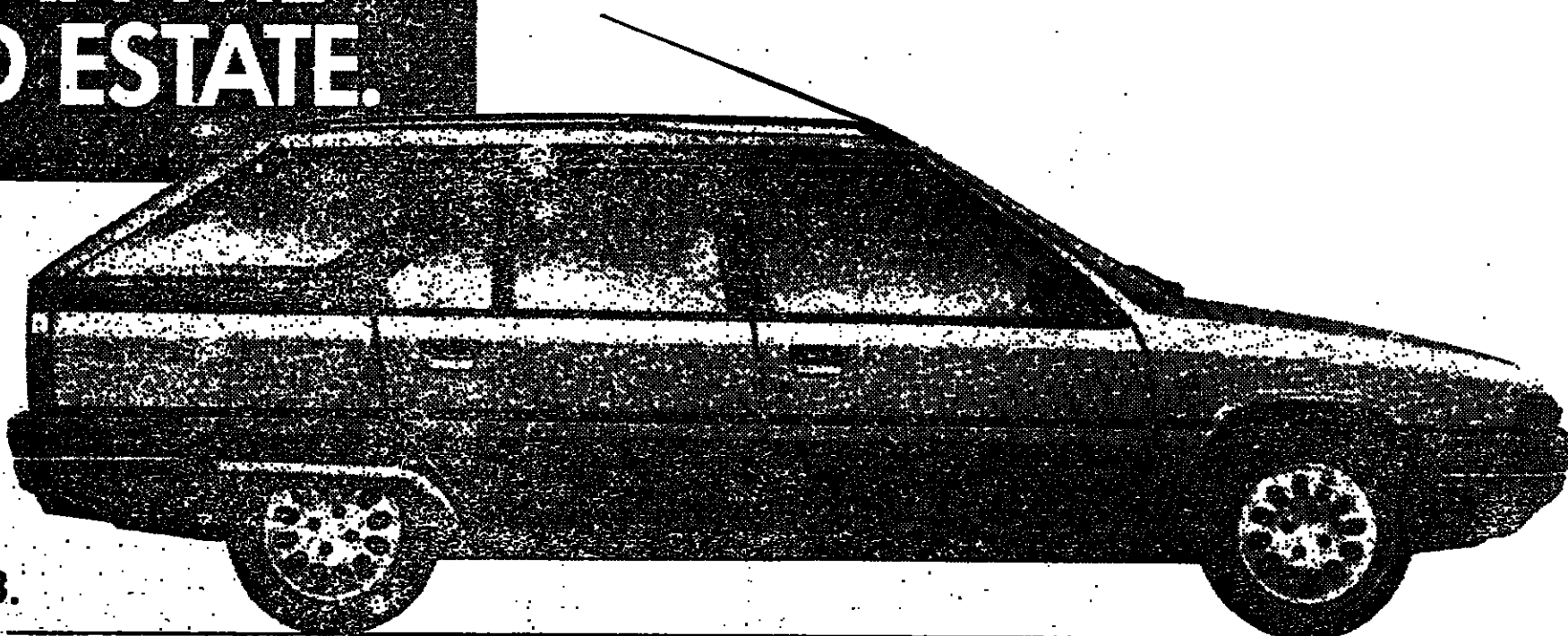
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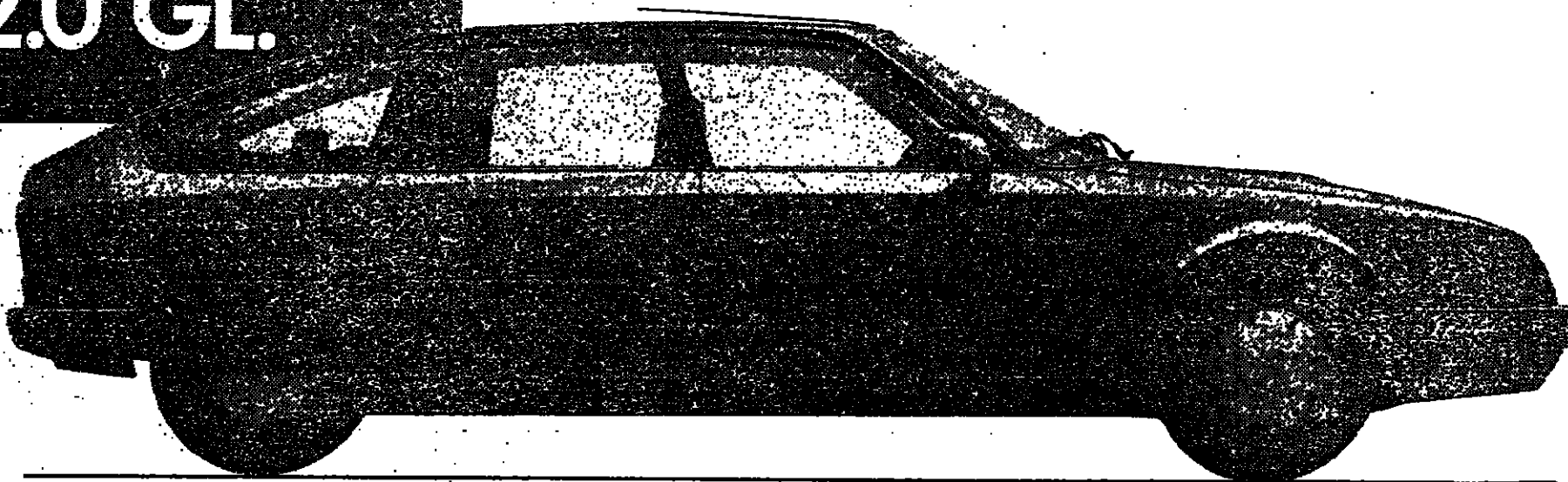
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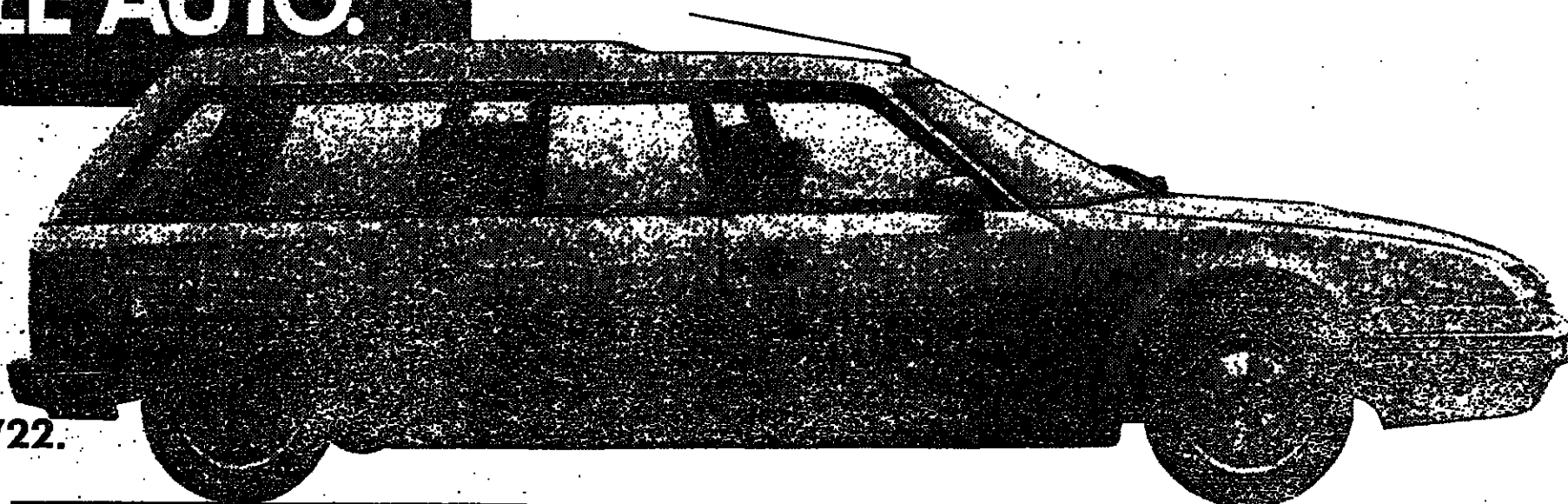
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SPECTRUM

Life for riotous assembly but six years for manslaughter... how fair are court sentences?

A matter of personal judgment



Criminal cases tried recently in the English courts have resulted in inconsistent sentences by judges and considerable public anger. In the first of two articles, Peter Evans

examines the system under which our judges are chosen, trained, guided and disciplined

England's judiciary is in the firing line over sentencing again. Four judges' decisions have attracted public anger in the past month. When Judge Michael Argyle, QC, gave 25-year-old Kevin George Whitton life imprisonment for riotous assembly outside Chelsea football ground, it was the most severe punishment ever meted out for soccer hooliganism.

The sentence is bitterly contrasted with the six years' jail that Mr Justice Russell at Manchester Crown Court gave David Salt, the father of the baby in the drawer who was convicted of manslaughter and ill treatment. Jurors were told that the baby died of a brain haemorrhage and X-rays showed a previous fracture of the right arm and seven broken ribs. There were protests at the "leniency" of the sentence.

At Bedford Crown Court, 10 jurors took the rare step of signing a letter to Judge Alan Coulthard criticizing his decision to drop charges of grievous bodily harm against John and Susan Beard, accused of physically abusing their child. The judge explained that it had been his duty to withdraw the charges after listening to legal arguments. John Beard, who admitted separate charges of theft and absconding, was jailed for three and a half years. His wife was sent to a probation hostel for reports after she was convicted by the jury of ill-treating her son.

Most recently Judge Sir James Miskin, QC, the Recorder of London and the senior permanent Old Bailey judge, came under attack for "soft" sentences of up to seven years on six black teenagers for the repeated rape of two white schoolgirls in Stockwell, London.

Mr David Mellor, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Home Office, is sending details of MPs' concern in a Commons debate over sentencing of rapists to the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane. Mrs Thatcher is following the issue closely, with rape attacks up 27% in the first six months of this year.

The attacks on judges have to be suffered in silence - they can't answer back - but Lord Lane has made this general riposte: "Judges are the butt of incessant criticism from the media - mostly ill-informed".

The sentences which the law requires judges to hand out are sometimes unclear. Retired judge Alan King-Hamilton, QC, says: "There is a big grey area in the middle". He once asked eight fellow judges at lunch what should be done in a particularly difficult case and received eight different answers.

Barristers, however, know that some judges are reputed to be severe sentencers, others lenient. One experienced barrister says: "When a defendant pleading guilty is on the list of a judge who is likely to be tough on his kind of offence, the tactic can well be to change the plea to not guilty - in the hope of getting a more favourable judge, from the defendant's point of view, next time round".

Another barrister said: "There is someone who is disinclined to use imprisonment who enjoys the sobriquet of 'Father Christmas'. But he added: "We cannot control whom we come in front of". If he was appearing before a judge who was unfamiliar to him, he would ask in the robing room

or of a solicitor what the likely sentence would be for a particular offence, whether the judge was strongly against rape or couldn't stand white-collar crime; whether he was fair but tough.

Whatever the tendencies of judges, the prison population recently reached a record 48,000. Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said on November 5: "The best present assessment is that this unprecedentedly large increase has mainly occurred because a larger number of defendants were dealt with by the Crown Court and a large proportion of them received a custodial sentence."

The Government can do little, except obliquely, to influence courts, which retain their much-prized independence. Hurd confessed that the prison system must respond to the demands placed on it.

Judges appear at first sight to be no longer following so closely guidance given by Lord Lane in 1980. He said then: "Sentencing courts must be particularly careful to examine each case to ensure, if an immediate custodial sentence is necessary, that the sentence is as short as possible, consistent only with the duty to protect the interests of the public and to punish and deter the criminal".

The attacks on judges have to be suffered in silence

That statement gave the Government high hopes of holding down the amount of extra money needed for prison building, and the *Criminal Statistics England and Wales 1984* notes showed falls between 1979 and 1981 in the average length of sentence at Crown Courts and magistrates' courts on persons aged 21 and over. But in 1984, the average length of immediate imprisonment for males aged 21 and over at all courts was 11.1 months, slightly higher than in 1983 and about three weeks longer than in 1981-82 (10.3 months), though nearly three weeks shorter than in 1979 (11.7 months).

If judges vary in their sentencing habits, are they nevertheless of a type, as critics sometimes make out?

The backbone of the judiciary is the circuit judges, who handle both civil cases (in county courts) and criminal cases (in Crown Courts). There are now 248 full-time circuit judges in England and Wales, an all-time high. The salary of a senior circuit judge is rising from £35,000 before July to £44,500 on March 1. The number of commitments for trial at Crown Court rose by 50 per cent between 1979 and 1984.

Judges talk of the technique of managing courts rather like piloting an aircraft: knowing how to take off, land, make turns without stalling and when to go on auto-pilot.

King-Hamilton once had 27 barristers in front of him in a mammoth case that lasted 7½ months. No single jury could have stood it, he says. There were 13 defendants and an enormous number of charges, more than 500 prosecution witnesses and about 50 for the defence. Most of the



evidence was read and there were more than 7,000 pages of documentary exhibits. The answer? To break up the case with the help of counsel. Some counts were heard before one jury and the remainder before another.

Recently appointed judges can suffer from what one experienced barrister calls "judgitis" - overweening self-importance and irritability. But in the past 20 years, judges have become more inclined to listen with respect. Once, a barrister was given this crushing rebuke: "I have been minded to deal with your client leniently but there are two obstacles in my way threatening to become insuperable. The first is the evidence of the witness you have called in mitigation. The second is the nature of your submission".

Today, a circuit judge will have had such splendid laughter educated out of him by the time he has been appointed, thanks to modern training from the Judicial Studies Board set up in 1979.

In 1984, the board arranged three-and-a-half-day residential seminars for about 240 experienced Crown Court judges and recorders and three three-day seminars for more than 100 new assistant recorders. A further six seminars were planned for this year involving 400 participants.

Nobody likes sending someone to prison. But it has to be done

Assistant recorders are taken to prisons, receive talks from, among others, senior probation officers on non-custodial sentences, and sit for a week with a circuit judge. The message is getting home. King-Hamilton says: "There is a tendency in the last few years to bear in mind the fact that the prisons are getting overpopulated and find some other ways of dealing with the defendant if that is possible. Sometimes you have to pass exemplary sentences in the public interest. Nobody likes sending someone to prison. I hated it. But it has to be done."

Over lunch between sessions, judges can switch off surprisingly easy. The conversation, with a visitor present, is wide-ranging and about anything except the case. But even when completely off-duty and away from court, judges do not entirely

shed their authority: they can be formidable and penetrating in their remarks, while keeping a delightful sense of humour.

The Times examined a sample of 341 circuit judges who gave details of themselves in *Who's Who*. Of these, 63 per cent had been to a public school and 64 per cent to Oxford or Cambridge.

Judges, it emerges, do not race whippets, play darts or become pigeon fanciers; instead one has King Charles spaniels and another gun-dogs, according to *Who's Who*. Other judges' interests indicate that they are not as aloof as is supposed. One plays poker. Another listed organ-playing, conducting and racing. A judge who put down "fast cars" in 1982 had discreetly changed his entry to "motor sport" in 1983. The most colourful entry is "the turf, travel, poetry".

Two judges are married to each other and the husband is interested in "fossicking" (rummaging or hunting about).

Though 60 judges have music as an interest, many like to be out of doors on their days off. Gardening is listed by 60 judges, golf by 59, walking by 35 and sailing by 30. Reading and fishing each claim 22 adherents, cricket and shooting 16 each.

Plays (whether amateur dramatics, writing them or simply watching them) interest 15 judges; painting, art and objects d'art 10; rugby eight; food, wine and cooking eight; riding five; hunting two; football two. Judge Argyle claims boxing as one of his interests.

Lord Lane said in July: "I wager I am the first Lord Chief Justice to be able to iron a shirt to laundry standards in three minutes".

Circuit judges retire soon after the age of 72, though the Lord Chancellor (Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone) has power to keep him or her on until nearly 75. Before being appointed, circuit judges have a medical test. If there are repeated complaints that a judge is deaf, the Lord Chancellor will require an examination.

Appointment as a judge brings security of tenure, though the Lord Chancellor has the power to remove someone for impropriety or misbehaviour. That has happened only once in modern times - to Judge Bruce Campbell QC who had been fined for attempted smuggling.

It is open to members of the Bar and solicitors to apply for any judicial appointment below the High Court. Since names of all barristers of over 10 years' standing are reviewed every

year, it is not necessary for them to apply. But there are too many solicitors to examine, so they either put themselves forward or are recommended. Those consulted about the suitability of an applicant include senior circuit judges; leaders of the circuits (silk elected by the circuits) to obtain the views of the Bar; and presiding judges of the circuit (High Court judges appointed by the Lord Chief Justice with the concurrence of the Lord Chancellor).

Sometimes judges are said to be prosecution minded

King-Hamilton is frank about the quality of juries and criticism of the Bench. "Sometimes judges are said by members of the Bar and the press to be prosecution minded; that they remand the jury of the prosecution rather than the defence." But King-Hamilton adds: "There is more evidence from the prosecution than the defence". I put it to him that judges were sometimes criticized for leniency. He replied that readers of press reports had not seen the witnesses to form a judgment about them. The judge would probably have seen a social inquiry report, a psychiatric report, a medical report and, sometimes, a prison governor's report. Such things could be a big influence on sentencing.

He says the standard of juries in London has gone down a lot. "I think this is partly due to the extent to which the right to challenge is exercised." There were better juries outside London and fewer challenges were made.

In the majority of cases, juries got the verdict right. When they got it wrong there was "nothing we can do about it. You have a gut feeling that this man is guilty or not and the evidence leaves you in no doubt at all. I have had a few cases where someone has been convicted and I have thought the verdict was wrong".

TOMORROW

How the JP system works - and why it needs improving

Long tale of Mr Halley

The famous comet has eclipsed the wider work of Edmond Halley, scientist extraordinary, says David Whitehouse

The association of Edmond Halley's name with a comet has for centuries concealed the fact that he was one of the most remarkable scientists of his country has produced. For 70 years he researched a staggering number of subjects, his work overshadowed in his lifetime only by that of his friend, Isaac Newton.

Little is known of his early life other than that he was born in Hackney, then a village near London, on or about October 29, 1656; that he wished in childhood to be an astronomer; and that before he was 10 he saw two great comets, the first in 1664 considered to be linked with the Great Plague and the second, the next year, associated with the Great Fire of London.

Presumably funded by his father, a soap manufacturer, made wealthy by the respect for personal hygiene that followed the plague, Halley arrived as a commoner at Queens' College, Oxford, with an "expensive array" of telescopes, including one 24ft long.

At 18 he wrote to John Flamsteed, the first Astronomer Royal, pointing out some mistakes in his tables of the positions of Jupiter and Saturn. Flamsteed helped him to publish his observations and that year Halley dropped out of the Oxford course to make an expedition to St Helena, the southernmost tip of the British Empire, where the uncharted southern skies were open to view.

Despite a parental allowance equivalent at present levels to £60,000 a year, he needed sponsors. Some of his friends persuaded Charles II to write to the East India Company and with money from them he set sail in November 1676. When he returned at 21 he came with half the crew. He had mapped the positions of 3,641 stars, opening up the southern heavens to astronomy.

Halley saw the great comet of 1680 from a ferry between Dover and Calais and immediately went to Jean-Dominique Cassini at the Paris Observatory to track it. Cassini suggested to Halley that this comet was the same as that of 1577, and that comets orbited the Sun like planets. Although Halley lacked the mathematics to prove it, the seed of his greatest discovery had been planted.

One of the central problems in astronomy at that time was how to describe the law of gravity that bound the planets in their orbits. In 1684 Halley discussed it with Christopher Wren, astronomer turned architect, and they offered a reward of 40 shillings to anyone who could solve the problem. Months later he went to Cambridge to meet a man he thought might help: his name was Isaac Newton, and the meeting changed the course of science.

conception of the world without his influence, it would probably not have been written. Halley became involved in many of the scientific questions of his time. He attempted to measure the size of the earth, investigated magnetism, physics, heat and air, how to keep a fish alive for mid-winter eating. He invented the first practical diving bell and used it to set up a successful salvage company. He devised a method for measuring the distance between the Earth and the Sun, later put into practice by Captain Cook in Tahiti. He also found time to talk to the Royal Society about his enthusiasm for optics.

After being refused an astronomy professorship at Oxford, partly because of the



Edmond Halley

COMET LATEST

Halley's comet will be at its closest to Earth on the inward leg of its journey - a 57-million miles from Earth. Moonlight interferes with our view of it until early December but it can be seen with binoculars just south of Mesarim, third brightest star in the constellation of Aries.

opposition of Flamsteed, who how saw him as a rival, Halley, at 39, was becoming increasingly interested in the orbits of comets.

The first to apply Newton's law of gravity, he calculated the orbits of 24 comets, from 1337 to 1698, including the brilliant sun-grazing comet of 1680. He found that the orbits for the comets of 1531, 1681 and 1682 were almost identical and became convinced that they were sightings of the same comet. In 1705 he published his work and predicted that this comet would return at Christmas 1758, even pinpointing its position.

Eventually gaining his Oxford professorship in 1704, Halley selflessly completed Flamsteed's *British History of the Heavens*, regarded as a masterpiece for centuries.

When Flamsteed died in 1719 Halley, then 63, became Astronomer Royal - minus telescopes because of the actions of Flamsteed's widow. To remedy this he became the first scientist to persuade the government to pass scientific equipment. Two years later he began a project to observe the moon for a complete "saros" cycle of 18 years and finished it at the age of 84, his last year.

Sixteen years later, on Christmas day 1758, the comet reappeared as Halley had predicted. He had asked that it return "as my first discovery by an Englishman".

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CHRISTIE'S WEEK IN VIEW

A selection from our 22 sales in London this week.

Important English and Continental Silver and Objects of Vertu: Wednesday 27 November at 10.30a.m., King Street: A fine and interesting sale with some good examples of silver-gilt including an unmarked cream-jug in the manner of Paul de Lamerie. Most remarkable are two items of Charles II silver, a flagon and a tankard, made in 1675 for Sir Edmund Godfrey, self-made business man, hero of the Fire of London, and murdered, probably at the behest of Titus Oates.

Printed Books and Illuminated Manuscripts: Wednesday 27 November at 10.30a.m., King Street: From the Collection of The late Sir Charles Clow comes a magnificent French Book of Hours from workshops associated with the Duc de Berry, circa 1390. Minor rarities include an 18th century French dance manual, and Horace Walpole's *Anecdotes of Painting* annotated by his friend William Cole.

Important English and Foreign Silver, from the Collection of The late Sir Charles Clow: Thursday 28 November, King Street: A short but opulent sale. Of particular quality is the George I silver-gilt, fifteen-sided salver by Augustin Courtault, 1723, embodying the simple elegance of the best Georgian workmanship. Twelve dinner-plates by Paul de Lamerie, 1741, fall into the same category.

Continental Drawings of the 19th and 20th Centuries: Thursday 28 November at 11a.m. and Important 19th Century Pictures: Friday 29 November, King Street: Two separate catalogues embrace 400 lots which cover most schools of the last century. Of particular interest in the Drawings sale are two large groups of drawings by J.H. Schilbach and August Lucas, both of the Darmstadt Romantic School in the second quarter of the century. Paintings include important works by Burne-Jones, Bouguereau, MacIver, as well as those by Hammershoi, Thaulow and Larsson in the increasingly popular Scandinavian section.

Impressionist and Modern Paintings, Drawings, Watercolours and Sculpture: Monday 2 December at 6.30p.m. and Tuesday 3 December at 10.30a.m. and 2.30p.m., King Street: The market has not seen as fine a Chagall as Lot 22, the *Chambre jaune* of 1911 for a long time. It distinguishes the start of a 650 lot marathon of modern and contemporary pictures to be dispersed over two days. There is a good group of German paintings which will be of greater interest in the light of the current Royal Academy exhibition. Also outstanding are works by Munch, Monet, Fantin Latour, Magritte and Moore.

Viewing: King Street: Weekdays 9a.m. - 4.45p.m. **Sundays 2p.m. - 5p.m.** Enquiries (01) 839 9060 **South Kensington:** Tuesday to Friday 9a.m. - 4.45p.m. **Monday 9a.m. - 7p.m.** Enquiries (01) 581 7611.

A walk on the warmer side



Outdoor clothing insulated with Flectalon (just coming on to the market) could be the answer for walkers who have shivered in damp, unsuitable gear. This web of aluminized polyvinyl-chloride (PVC) fibres was evolved at Cardiff University's Industry Centre. It proved so successful in trials that a South Wales company recently took over the product and its name is now being used in body warmers, duvets and cool bags.

FINDINGS

An occasional series on research TEXTILES

The exact qualities which might make Flectalon a life-saver in icy conditions have been tested on babies aged two to 10 days by the Welsh National School of Medicine. In temperatures down to 13.8°C, babies with a Flectalon covering showed no change in their body core temperature without showing an increased oxygen consumption. Details of the findings have been published in *Archives of Disease in Childhood* (British Medical Association).

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 810)

ACROSS	1 Promise (6)	16 True (7)	22 Repair (4)
2 Deceive (4)	17 Pursue to end (6,7)	19 Surpass (5)	23 Considerably (3)
3 Provide with (5)	18 Status loss (8)		
4 Black/white horse (7)	21 Tack (7)		
5 Thick wool (5)	22 Lethal (4)		
6 Night mare (13)	23 Rushed (5)		
7 Profound (4)	24 Milfoil (6)		
8 Flat elevation (7)			
9 From now on (10)			
10 Severe critic (5,5)			
11 Pillage (4)			
12 Scottish hill (4)			
13 Remonstrance 17 Late 18 Frankish 21 Funnily 22 Unarm 23 Satchel 24 Leeks			
DOWN	1 Memory 2 Tonic 3 Decision 4 Princess Royal 5 Rope 6 Adamant 7 Natter 12 Tranquil 14 Extinct 15 Bluffs 16 Chimes 19 Inane 20 Sign		

Safely to sleep

Extra-safe children's night-dresses are now available with flame-retardant qualities which exceed the new British Standard requirements. They will be available at selected Woolworth stores where they will cost about £2 more than the standard range. The material is Hoechst Trevira CS fibre. It has already been widely used in the commercial field from hospitals to aircraft; the domestic market will encounter the new BS 5722 1984 during the next few months. Hoechst hopes that safety guidelines will be further tightened when it is proved that consumers are prepared to pay more for peace of mind.

Out of a tight spot

In Japan, women get through four and a half pairs of tights a week which are thrown away rather than washed. So Japanese tights are being made with a new polyester fibre with built-in elasticity (known technically as Poly-Buylene Terephthalate). Charles has claimed a first for importing the yarn into Britain where it is being made into a range called Tender Touch. The yarn is given the usual crimping treatment in manufacture which increases elasticity to 50 per cent. A panel of 750 users have voted in favour of its improved cling and comfort. These assets are likely to reduce snagging, but in any case, British women are more careful with tights than the Japanese, getting through only one and a half pairs a week.

Swell solution

The swimwear which used to disintegrate as the Lycra elastane fibre swelled with doses of swimming-pool chlorine is now a thing of the past. A secret modification, known in the industry as Du Pont's 249B swimwear quality, has given Lycra a new structure so that its segmented polyurethane composition is at least three times more resistant to chlorine.

Researchers used terms of competitive swimmers in England and Wales to test the revised elastane, which accounts for up to 18 per cent of the finished garments.

Viscose visions

Viscose is becoming a fashion fabric for men, according to fashion designer Stephen King, who has been researching the possibilities of this fibre made from wood pulp (regenerated cellulose) mixed with cotton, silk or wool. He is predicting that next autumn jackets and shirts will be made from two, or even three, fabrics. While the designer voices the merits of Courtauld's viscose cloth, researchers at the Institute of Cotton are developing ways to make this most natural of fibres capable of resembling shot silk and rayon. Market research has come up with no surprises by showing that Viscella is generally known for what it is - a fabric that is warm to handle. It is now becoming used for fashion ranges as new shops in Guildford, Edinburgh and Nottingham.

Ann Hills

مكتبة من الكتب

63 NEW BOND STREET LONDON TEL: 4911

FASHION by Suzy Menkes

The latest dynasty of party dresses is as frothy as a gin fizz with a Hollywood message of glossy, sensual elegance



Toujours glamour

Glamour was born of the silver screen and has been born again on television. Fifty years after Gloria Swanson's swansdown and Mae West's drop-dead dressing, Joan Collins has revived glamorous fashion.

Her *Dynasty* wardrobe is as much a part of the soap series as were the images of impossible elegance in early Hollywood movies. The magnetic appeal of the mega-star as an escape from a humdrum world was poignantly expressed in Woody Allen's latest film *The Purple Rose of Cairo*. Fantasy on film last took over from reality in the drab post-war years, when Marilyn Monroe's curvaceous sheath dresses and platinum hair expressed a gleaming glamour after years of make-do and mend.

Perhaps there is a similar urge today to escape from bad news into a world where cracks in a marriage are covered in lip gloss, and hair spray holds families together. Joan Collins, just like past screen goddesses, perpetuates her glamour status off-screen, and we seem eager to follow in her high-heeled footsteps.

The stuff of this season's party fashion is as frothy as a gin fizz. "Scarlet Woman" sheath dresses cling like a second skin and strapless bodices mould the figure in satin and velvet. The same message of sensual elegance reverberates right down the high street, where little black dresses hang in well-coordinated Next, and shoe-string strap sheaths are on sale in wholesome M & S.

Glamour is a product of this century and could not have been projected when clothes were a vehicle for rank and status of society's elite. The fashion concept of surreal elegance is inextricably bound up with the rise of haute couture. Joan

Collins's fantastic outfits, from her tip-tilted hats to her glossy stockings, owe more to Parisian pre-war chic than to Hollywood's more ostentatious packaging.

A lavish new book illustrates in more than 350 pictures the high noon of haute couture, when Balmain and Dior created the clothes moulded to the bodies of models who looked haughty rather than naughty. The author spans fashion from Paul Poiret's oriental exotica to Balenciaga's sculptural chic, and includes the glamorous gowns created for Joan Crawford by Hollywood's costume designer, Adrian.

But as we come down to our own age, Caroline Rennolds Milbank, viewing fashion from an American's standpoint, starts to confuse couture with designer fashion and profiles Kenzo, Ralph Lauren and Kansai as though they were part of a dynasty of couture.

We are living at a time when couture is back in fashion, not just in France's fashion capital, but both as a meter and an image to aim for. The British made-to-order designers like Edelstein and Oldfield report a boom in business. The look of polish and glamour that was submerged by ready-to-wear is re-surfacing as high style.

For most women, glamour is best handled tongue-in-cheic and the current party wear reflects this mood. On this page you can see Belville Sassoon's cheeky flapper dress with a lampshade fringing breaking up the hour-glass outline. Victor Edelstein's black velvet is overlaid with flounces of scarlet spotted net. Murray Arbeid, with the skills of haute couture, unfolds duchess satin lined in net at the knees like the petals of a flower.

It is all a far cry from the easy evening separates we have been wearing or the androgynous tuxedo jackets and trousers. The flirtatious dresses also contradict the feminist fashion philosophy that sees glamour dressing as an old-fashioned sexist plot, long since relegated to the past.

The revival of evening glamour has come on the backs of the 20-year-olds who have been freed from the constraints of demanding fashion. The children weaned on Babygro and brought up in dungarees and track suits were never supposed to need to suffer to be beautiful. Only their mothers and an older generation remembered the high heels, hobble skirts and encasing girdles that once defined the role of women.

But today's heroines are Tina Turner and Madonna, who project a raunchy image nearer to Monroe and Mae West than the Sixties favourite, Joan Baez.

Sociologists are inclined to read into fashion significance that sounds convincing. But I suspect that the lurch from fresh-air make-up and back-to-nature dressing to glamour and glitz expresses merely the essence of fashion itself.

Fashion is about change, and what was long will be followed by short, baggy, oversized clothes are replaced by form-fitting styles; a mourning pall of black is followed by splashes of bright colour.

Those women who, at night, dress for dynasty and drink a toast in a sophisticated cocktail called "Toujours Glamour", will be back in sporty separates next morning as surely as day follows night.

Couture, the Great Fashion Designers, by Caroline Rennolds Milbank (Thames & Hudson, £45).

Scarlet taffeta and net petal skirt unfolding on black velvet, £560 from Murray Arbeid, 169 Sloane Street, SW1. Feathered velvet cocktail hat by Graham Smith at Kangol £144 from Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1. Twisted jet and pearl necklace, £34, hand ear-rings, £44, by Butler and Wilson, 189 Fulham Road, SW3 and 20 South Molton Street, W1. Sheer black tights with flowers and diamanté l. Charnos, £5.95 from major stores. Black velvet shoes with a r. satin bow, £155 from Maud Frizon, 31 Old Bond Street, W1



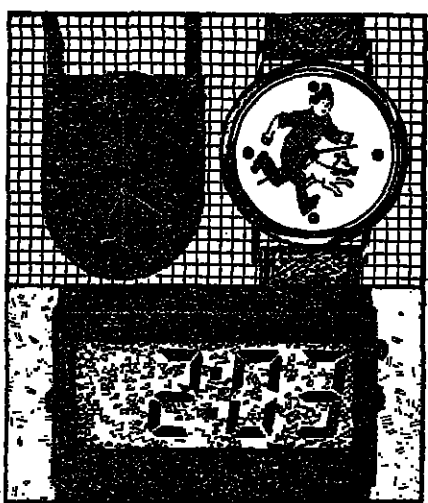
Black silk velvet and red spotted silk organza dress to order from Victor Edelstein, 9 Stanhope Mews West, SW7. Spiral and treble-clef ear-rings, £35, jet bracelets, £45 from Butler and Wilson branches. Sheer Charnos tights £5.95. Satin shoes with silver bows, £155 from Maud Frizon, 31 Old Bond Street, W1.

Photographs: Tony McGee

Hair: Martin Brooks for Schumi. Make-up: Hele... for Yves Saint Laurent Beauté

Scarlet ruched cocktail dress with tiered lampshade fringing on silk paper taffeta, also in black, £229 from Belville Sassoon, 73 Pavilion Road, SW1 and Foxy, Aberdeen. Long black suede gloves, £144 from Yves Saint-Laurent, 113 New Bond Street, W1. Art-deco jet and diamanté necklace, £98, ear-rings, £28, both from Butler and Wilson, 189 Fulham Road, SW3 and 20 South Molton Street, W1. Black tights patterned with bows, £2.99 by Charnos from major stores. Red velvet court shoes, £155 from Maud Frizon, 31 Old Bond Street, W1.

Witty watches for all weathers



Far Left: Smooth black pendant watch on a sinuous rubber cord by Bruno Ninaber, £175 from Joseph Pour La Maison, 16 Sloane Street, SW1

Left: Tin-Tin cartoon watch, solid metal with a leather strap, £17.95 from Zone at Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1

Below: Window of Time glitter digital watch by Agostino, £49 from Joseph Pour La Maison, 16 Sloane Street, SW1

Illustration by Brian Evans

Time is on our side this winter. The watch market is flooded with witty waterproof designs. With the emphasis on cheap and cheerful, Swatch lead the field with watch designs for every occasion - hi-tech for day, bright and sporty for fun, paisley or lace for evening.

For the festive season there's a limited edition called "Lime-light" Swatch with a sleek black face fitted with tiny Weston diamonds and a sprinkling of colourful stones for £75.

Old favourites like Snoopy and Donald Duck have been replaced by cars, planes and motor bikes in bright neon-coloured designs with raised dome faces on rubber straps for £11.95 by Addition. Fifties cartoon character Tin-Tin has been revived recently and is now available for £17.95 on the face of a solid metal watch with a smart black leather strap.

All these watches are available from selections at Fenwick, New Bond Street, W1; Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1; Harvey Nichols, Knights-

bridge, SW1; Rackhams in Birmingham and Kendals in Manchester.

A smooth black pendant on a sinuous rubber cord by Bruno Ninaber for £175 is one of the high-tech designs from the chic Joseph Pour La Maison shop at 16 Sloane Street, SW1.

The Watch Gallery at 129 Fulham Road, SW3, is a haven of precision timing and immaculate design. The Astrolabium made by Ulysse Nardin, with a price tag of £13,000 and accuracy to one day in 144,000 years, is just one example of the rare pieces trucked down by The Watch Gallery's joint partner Simon Gaul.

From Cartier comes the ultimate Christmas present. The Pasha, a solid gold waterproof watch originally designed in 1933 for the Pasha of Marrakesh who expressed a desire to "be able to bathe while keeping a sense of time". It has been redesigned with an optional solid gold protective guard and sells for £7,465.

Rebecca Tyrrel

FASHION PEOPLE

The star of last week's Birthday Ball at the Royal Albert Hall was not Ringo Starr in his flame-red bow tie, nor his wife, Barbara Bach, in clinging crimson crepe and star-spangled shoes; nor even the Princess of Wales in her plunge-back scarlet gown.

The talk of the evening was the transformation of the cavernous Royal Albert Hall into a 400-foot frieze of masks spanned the uppermost tier. The 111 box fronts were swagged with cloth of gold and decorated with pleated fans. Banquet tables were lined up with rococo bows. The decor was matched by the 1,800-strong audience who, almost to a woman, had followed the designer dictates to dress in scarlet or gold.

Behind this triumphantly successful decor, which had older members of the Albert Hall's staff reminiscing about grand evenings in the 1930s, was 34-year-old Paul Dyson, the display manager of Harvey Nichols.

Dyson's conception of a Victorian Christmas overlaid with Renaissance splendour was an extension of his lavish Christmas windows currently in the store. "I thought of a red

and gold theme for the Albert Hall because I wanted to work with the building rather than against it", he says. "I then bamboozled the committee into asking the guests to dress in red and gold and become part of the decor."

Paul Dyson, whose striking windows have made him one of London's leading display artists, started his career as a display maker with Harvey Nichols 15 years ago. His first large-scale effort was the decoration of the Royal Opera House last year for an NSPCC Gala Evening.

Edward Rayne, chairman of Harvey Nichols (co-sponsors of the Birthday Ball), paid tribute to Dyson and his staff for their achievement which followed a month of seven-day-a-week work on the store's Christmas windows.

The culmination of Dyson's display was an altar piece of masks banking the stage. They were designed as works of art by celebrities from Dame Elisabeth Frink's sculptural shape to Angus McBean's sequinned extravaganzas. The masks included work by Sir Sidney Nolan, Andrew Logan, Zandra Rhodes and even Elton John.

EXHIBITION

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ALL FOR HILLSBOROUGH

In defence of the Anglo-Irish Agreement the Government now has nowhere to go but forward. When the Prime Minister rises in the Commons today at the start of what promises to be a bitter debate, she faces an Opposition which has developed on entirely predictable lines. If unionism's political representatives wish to turn the fight over the Hillsborough agreement into one over the deeper question of an elected government's authority to govern, then the Cabinet must be ready to meet that challenge.

The Government will naturally wish to defuse any such crisis before the stakes rise that high. The debate is the Government's opportunity to show that it has had the foresight and flexibility to plan for the protest and resistance which was always likely if any degree of Dublin involvement were to be given in the affairs of the north. No matter how often assurances about the security of the Union are repeated, the likelihood of such resistance remains.

A purely defensive Government strategy will not be sufficient; this agreement needs to be defended by more than just the stubborn strength for which Mrs Thatcher has won respect. Its merits need the most vigorous

"hard sell" which a united Cabinet can mount. In particular, Unionists need reminding that the Anglo-Irish Inter-Governmental Conference offers the prospect of further improvement, cross-border security co-ordination, inadequacies plenty can still be found, but gradual improvements over the years in relations between north and south have slowly brought a commensurate toughening of the machinery of detection and conviction. The conference agenda offers an opportunity to build on that.

If improved security should be the content of the Government's promotional drive, its form also needs careful attention. There is a balance to be drawn between assertions or pronouncements which raise the temperature still higher and those that are best designed to persuade any non-aligned members of the majority community to give the deal a chance.

The best approach to this would be the broadest Government front. The bruised and beleaguered Mr Tom King should not be left to shoulder this burden on his own. Let some of his Cabinet colleagues and their junior ministers travel to Northern Ireland to underline both the Cabinet's commitment to British sovereignty and to making the

Anglo-Irish Agreement work within that framework. And why should this be left to Conservative ministers alone? If Mr Kinnoch is so fiercely determined to defend the Agreement against Unionist resistance (his party presided over the collapse of the Sunningdale power-sharing initiative in 1974) it would be fitting if the Labour leader of 1985 helped defend the agreement outside, as well as inside, Parliament. When Mr David Steel made a major speech in Belfast last year, he was the first British party leader to speak there for 12 years. Bipartisanship in the Commons has too often become an alibi for sloth and indifference.

The urgency of the need for the Government to mount the most vigorous defence possible lies in the high price of failure. Provisional Sinn Féin wait in the wings to exploit any collapse. It is they, and not the Official Unionists or Dr Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists, who will be the real winners if the agreement falters or folds. The Government now has a stake in the simple preservation of its modest rapprochement with the Republic. It does not have to promise that great things will emerge in the future as a result of its signing. What it must see, understand and act on, is the vital importance of its survival.

LESSONS OF LUQA

It is not so very long since Mrs Thatcher and Vice-president George Bush stood on the steps of 10 Downing Street and called on their allies to support a programme of measures designed to make life more difficult for the hijack gunmen. In response they received little more than token nods of agreement. Similar demands were repeated by a number of world leaders including Mrs Thatcher again and President Reagan at the Washington conference of the International Democratic Union (IDU) in late July. But the positive results have still to be seen.

The latest negative result of the failure to curb international terrorism occurred on Sunday night. Many questions remain to be asked after the disaster at Luqa airport in which 57 people died. The death of the hijackers themselves and the condition of the aircraft involved make it highly unlikely that we will ever find satisfactory answers to all of them. The tasks should not, however, be set aside.

One of these concerns airport security. Although it is still unclear how, when and where the terrorists were able to smuggle hand-guns and grenades on board the 737, the continuing ease with which they and others of their kind evade the elaborate security screens to which so many air travellers are now accustomed, can only cause concern among Western governments. Substantial investment

has already been made at Athens airport for example, stigmatised by last summer's TWA hijack as the point at which the terrorists then climbed aboard. But despite the introduction of the most sophisticated equipment, travellers have complained that security provisions here are still far from adequate.

The efficiency of security arrangements at the world's international airports is dangerously uneven and some of those which are most suspect are also the closest to the Middle East trouble spots. The Greek government is extremely sensitive to criticism of the facilities at Athens. But they have to face up to the geopolitical reality of their locations.

A second issue concerns the affiliations of the four Palestinians and a Syrian who carried out this particularly abhorrent attack. It has come embarrassingly soon after Yasser Arafat's Cairo statement denouncing international terrorism. At best it would seem to suggest that Mr Arafat's control over the increasingly fragmented Palestinian resistance movement is now very limited. Ironically it seems that the more he becomes involved in the peace process, the more determined the extremist factions are to display their revolutionary credentials. It follows that incidents of this kind call into question the feasibility of the process itself.

This has been the bloodiest outcome so far of any hijacking and has caused shock waves of

horror to reverberate round the civilized world. According to one eye-witness passengers were forced to leave the aircraft - then were shot in the back as they did so - to the evident delight of the people who shot them. This sounds like the work of psychopaths whose strategic objective is still uncertain.

The tactics employed by the Egyptian commandos at Luqa are clearly in need of critical examination. Reports suggest that their firing was wildly indiscriminate. They were clearly in an extraordinarily difficult position. With passenger after passenger being shot by the hijackers, the security authorities could hardly play for time. On this occasion things went badly wrong. But it was not the principle that was at fault but its practical implementation.

Israelis and Westerners among the passengers were apparently rounded up first by the hijackers. This should only reinforce the need for stronger co-operation between Western governments if they are to defeat the menace of international terrorism. The need for firm action is underlined by the very statistics. The number of such incidents in the first six months of this year equalled the total number for 1984 - suggesting another dangerous spiralling of a threat which we once thought had been brought under control. This was a dreadful crime against humanity and no effort must be spared to ensure that it is not repeated.

LISTEN TO THE MESSENGER

If the public had an unswerving aversion to the idea of commercials on the BBC, Mr Bob Worcester, as the ready spokesman of the pollsters, could expect a sudden spate of broad-casting engagements to fill his diary. In between records on Desert Island Discs he could expound on the widespread understanding of the idea of public service broadcasting. On the Jimmy Young programme he might offer an insight into the popular antipathy towards commercial breaks. The Terry Wogan Show would not let the week go by without including his pertinent observations about how the public supported consistently the idea that the BBC's part in the present television ecology was too precious to be tainted by advertisements for soap powder.

Yet Mr Worcester is absent from the screen. The reason is a simple one. He and his fellows in the opinion poll industry are the carriers of a message which the broadcasters do not want to spread, the news that the public like the idea of commercials on television. It is the lot of opinion polls to be applauded as prescient by those who support their findings and dismissed as trivial and irrelevant by those who come off worst when the public is asked for its views.

Mr Jeremy Hardie, a member of the Peacock Committee, seemed to embrace the consensus of the defeated recently when he described surveys discussing the public's attitudes towards advertising on the BBC as silly questions producing silly answers. "Of course, if you say 'Can we have advertising because we won't have to pay £58', everybody says yes," said Mr Hardie,

echoing a familiar sentiment in British political thinking, the idea that the public at large will always ditch ideas of principle in favour of matters of self-interest.

Yet, for those who are willing to seek out the facts, nothing could be further from the truth. Take two questions from a MORI poll about problems in society: if the Government proposed to increase income tax by a penny in the pound to pay for measures to protect wildlife and the environment, would you support the idea? Two to one were in favour. If the Government proposed to increase income tax by a penny in the pound to pay for measures to ensure that we use natural resources with less waste, would you be in favour? A total of 58 per cent said yes, while 25 per cent disagreed.

The public does not necessarily take a simplistic and greedy view of the questions it is asked on the street. In the Independent Broadcasting Authority's own library is a research paper produced by the organization which shows that viewers' ideas of who should pay for different television services depends more on a moral judgement than a financial one. Pay-per-use is seen as the most desirable way of financing ITV programmes videotaped by the public, a service which is currently available without direct charge. Where is the selfishness there?

Nevertheless the song of the broadcasting organizations continues to play. Its message is that the polls are based upon badly phrased questions put to people who do not understand the full implications of what they are having to judge.

All of them? Since March last year there have been nine full-

scale polls which asked about advertising and the BBC. All have shown a large majority in favour of commercials. The penultimate, which was run by MORI for the Marketing Society, went into some fine detail about discovering whether people believed that commercials would ruin the quality of the Corporation. Sensibly, they thought not.

That outcome does not, of course, make it right to allow the BBC, in its present size and structure, to take advertising. It does, however, chip away at one of the most often used arguments against change.

The most recent poll, carried out by NOP for the Peacock Committee itself, confirms the public's unconcerned approach towards commercials and should, as Professor Peacock himself has urged, improve our knowledge of the public's perception of the problems of broadcasting finance. It should also help our understanding of the use of opinion polls themselves. There are occasions when the results of individual polls appear mischievous, though it is difficult, even in the event of the most volatile of by-elections, to prove that they have a direct effect on the outcome. The cumulative lesson of surveys carried out by different companies using a selection of questions to test public attitudes to a matter of importance demands greater attention, for it is the closest that any society has yet reached to the vox populi. Which is precisely why the pollsters' art is now derided in certain quarters and the likes of Mr Worcester must, as messengers, carry the blame for the unwelcome messages they occasionally bear.

Dissatisfaction with Lloyd's resolve

From Mr Michael Nathanson

The Chairman of Lloyd's in his letter (November 15) seeks to dispel doubts raised in your City Editor's article (November 13) as to the true extent of Lloyd's resolve to regulate its affairs and sweep from its stable corruption of recent years. Unfortunately the complacency and pride with which Mr Miller recounts recent reforms are not justified by events over the summer months. In particular, the manner in which Lloyd's has so far dealt with the financial devastation caused by the PCW affair.

Tens of millions of pounds have been stolen from investors at Lloyd's and yet no suggestion has been made as to how they are to be compensated. Indeed, rather than providing assistance Lloyd's has obstructed those who, for many years, placed their entire trust in the society's good faith. A number of points are worth making:

1. Lloyd's has refused on numerous occasions to provide to the affected names or their professional advisers relevant information. It has pleaded privilege and confidentiality and at times its affairs have appeared shrouded in a cloak of near-masonic secrecy.

2. It has taken Lloyd's more than three years to prosecute disciplinary proceedings and impose a fine upon the principal offender which, in the context of the losses inflicted, may be no more than a gesture.

3. Notwithstanding its knowledge that it could not be so, Lloyd's steadfastly asserted up to the publication last week of the disciplinary findings that the present

underwriting losses sustained by the PCW names were caused by bad underwriting rather than fraud and were therefore solely the responsibility of the names.

4. Lloyd's last year tacitly supported a settlement under which the PCW names were required to give up all their rights to litigate. It now transpires that much of the information given at the time of the settlement was misleading.

5. Lloyd's has, despite the chairman's apparent written assurance, failed to protect the position of some of its names in concluding a settlement with the Inland Revenue from which they have been excluded.

Lloyd's failure to fulfil the duties which it owes to its members also continues. This can give little reassurance to those who wish to see Lloyd's thrive nor to the 26,000 names who trust so completely in its good faith and integrity, nor ultimately to its policy holders.

The way in which Lloyd's now deals with the consequences of its past failings will indicate better its sincerity and resolve than any bold assertion by its chairman. Over the coming weeks it will have an opportunity to demonstrate whether it is capable of regaining the respect which it once commanded without the need for there to be imposed upon the conduct of its affairs external statutory regulation.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL NATHANSON,
The PCW 1985 Committee,
Broadgate House,
7 Eldon Street, EC2,
November 20.

Anglo-Irish pact

From Dr C. P. Kennedy

Sir, As an Ulsterman, and having read the Anglo-Irish agreement we have all been repeatedly told to do by Mr King, I can only say that the more I read it the more I am appalled by it.

The Secretary of State repeatedly tells the Ulster Unionists that the status of Northern Ireland has at last been guaranteed by the Republic of Ireland and points to this as a tremendous achievement. In my naivety I always thought Northern Ireland's position was completely protected by the United Kingdom Government - or so we had been told on numerous occasions - so this tremendous achievement is actually of little or no real significance in practical terms.

What I would really like to know, however, is to which Northern Ireland the guarantee refers - is it the pre-November 15 Northern Ireland or the post-November 15 Northern Ireland, because surely no one in all honesty could say that the status of the province was not dramatically changed on that day.

Prior to that we had direct British rule; now, however, it is to British rule but with a very definite input and influence from a foreign government - a government which, incidentally, still claims jurisdiction over the territory of part of the United Kingdom.

Perhaps we could really say Mrs Thatcher had achieved something if she managed to get the republic to withdraw that claim - but very little more.

Yours faithfully,
C. P. KENNEDY,
20 Ranelagh Drive South,
Liverpool,
November 19.

Patent convention

From Mr Amédée Turner, QC, MEP for Suffolk and SE Cambridgeshire (Conservative)

Sir, The letter of Mr Lawrence, President of the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents, published on November 18, calls for delaying the negotiations on the European Community Patent Convention.

He complains that the problems are difficult: he relies on the decision to leave Ireland and Denmark out of the arrangement as indicative of large constitutional problems. Five times he repeats that the proposals would produce a "mini" or "inferior" system.

I am a patent practitioner, too; never before have I heard British practitioners who deal primarily with the great industries of the USA, Japan, Germany, France and Britain base a case for doing nothing on such a small excuse. Surely never have British professional representatives hidden behind such a mini objection. Perhaps we should coin the expression "mini-England".

Mr Lawrence complains of a lack of warning and of being "rushed to a conclusion", yet he says that

Surely, one asks, what is terrible in allowing the Republic of Ireland to act as *amicus curiae* of the interests of Ulster's Catholics? Will such a unique role not help arrest the alienation of those Catholics from Ulster institutions and wean them away from support of the gun? Unfortunately, desirable as these objects are, this agreement will do nothing to further them. The reasons why are:

1. The deliberate lack of definition will either lead to sacrifice of principle or to major conflicts between the two governments on those areas of outstanding controversy, which include virtually everything of significance.

2. The agreement is fundamentally unfair to Unionists.

3. It has destroyed, in my view, any prospect of achieving a devolved government in Northern Ireland.

4. The only consensus that can be claimed for it in Northern Ireland is from the SDLP, a party that statistically does not speak for more than 20 per cent of the electorate.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SMYTH,
Lisburn,
Co Antrim,
November 15.

Nuremberg recalled

From Mr Merrin Gwyer Holroyd

Sir, "Forty years ago this morning the Nuremberg Trials began", said Frank Johnson in his most interesting article "Nuremberg: the judgement of history" on November 20.

Mr Johnson went on to say: "Most of the people of Nuremberg will spend the day as they spend most days." May I point out that Wednesday, November 20, was a national holiday? Appropriately enough, it was repentance day - called *Buss und Bettag*.

Yours faithfully,
MERRIN GWYER HOLROYD,
28 Cantwell Road, SE18,
November 21.

essentially the proposals have been available since 1984. He refers to the package of which he is "highly critical"; yet this package is probably the highest victory ever obtained by British negotiators in the field of industrial property, viz, the agreement of all the Continental states to accept the British system of patent trials wholly alien to all of them.

Patents are his profession; so are trade marks; and with another breath he and all of us are calling for recognition of Britain's suitability and right to have the European Trade Mark Office. How can this claim fit in with his letter? It would be simplistic beyond belief to think that a "mini-England" in patents could be a European in trade marks.

Finally, he says that the Government would be unwise to have the courage to make an "unpopular political decision" threatening them with failure. Certainly, this claim raises a very specialist and technical interest to dizzy political heights, and it is a good thing that the present Government does not, of all

Yours faithfully,
AMÉDÉE TURNER,
3 Montrose Place, SW1.

Sunday trading

From the Chairman of Habitat/Mothercare, plc

Sir, If I was a churchman or a passionate advocate of "Keeping Sunday as a day of rest" I might reflect on the facts as I would wish to be accused of hypocrisy in my campaign to stop certain shops opening for trade.

I would have to take note of the fact, disclosed by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, that about 40 per cent of the working population do not rest on Sundays and that offices and factories often open. I would then have to consider if the closure of pubs and restaurants, petrol stations, sporting activities and Sunday markets would seriously damage the quality of Sunday as a day of rest.

Furthermore, I would have to ponder on the curtailment of live

TV, radio and newspapers and whether the withdrawal of public services such as the police, gas, medical, transport, electrical and water supplies would upset our enjoyment of Sunday as a "special day".

I might also be concerned that museum shops, which are under the jurisdiction of the Government, open illegally and the cathedral shops and church bazaars also apparently break the law.

I would also then consider if Scotland, where Sunday opening is legal, had become a hell-hole of rapacious capitalism or if in Sweden, admired for its democratic attitudes, small traders have been forced out of business because of Sunday opening.

I would also wonder if I had the God-given right to pontificate over 70 per cent of the population who

Putting museums on sound footing

From Mr Simon Hornby

Sir, The brouhaha about the V&A's scheme for voluntary contributions on admission to the museum forms part of the wider debate on how museums are to increase their income.

The main barrier against self-help has been the expectation that the Treasury will claw back or reduce grants by all, or at least part, of the money raised by a museum itself. If the new scheme of funding suggested by the Office of Arts and Libraries (OAL), which I understand would guarantee the annual grant at 95 per cent of the annual budget for each museum, is adopted, the disincentive for the money-raisers will largely disappear.

More talk of charging for entrance to museums sends liberal hands shooting into the air, although why a fair and sensibly presented voluntary scheme should offend it is hard to understand. A mere whisper about raising money by allowing museums to sell surplus and unneeded museum pieces from their collections creates a scene fit for H. M. Bateman.

Why? The main objections seem to be:

1. The policy will scare off potential donors and so reduce future gifts and legacies.

Solution: Let it be widely known that potential donors may choose to donate their gifts inalienable, following the practice which has served the National Trust admirably for over 80 years.

2. Collections would be ravaged because of contemporary taste or the whims of a museum director.

Solution: Devise a series of safeguards, dictated by plain common sense, which would set up a screening system and which would include a final authority to approve any sale, a body such as the present export reviewing committee.

The proposal is straightforward; a process is required by which museums may be authorised to sell second-rate stuff from their collections in order to have more money to buy the first-rate objects which are likely to come on to the market.

This surely is the practice of any good collector.

All that is needed is the will and some simple legislation. Why not get on with it before it's too late?

Yours faithfully,
SIMON HORNBY,
8 Ennismore Gardens, SW7.

Plight of refugees

From Lord Abergry

Sir, For 18 months past, more than 10,000 refugees from the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya have been living in rough camps just across the border into Papua New Guinea, with barely enough assistance to keep them alive. The PNG Government have not accorded refugee status to them and they face the constant risk of being forced back into the hands of their oppressors.

The PNG Government, perhaps out of fear of retaliation by Jakarta, have not asked for help either from the Commonwealth or the United Nations. They have not allowed the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to carry out his duty to protect these people and indeed, on October 12, the PNG authorities flew 12 of the refugees back to Irian Jaya in handcuffs.

I learn that since then they have been almost continuously interrogated, and there must be doubts even about the likelihood of their survival, unless the outside world takes a greater interest in their fate.

Now it is reported that 11 further refugees may be returned. PNG is not a signatory of the United Nations Convention on Refugees, so there is nothing to stop further groups being sent back at intervals except the moral pressure of international opinion, and particularly the advice of PNG's fellow members of the Commonwealth.

Our own Prime Minister was recently a guest in Jakarta; her influence with her host on that occasion could save 23 lives.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC AVEBURY,
House of Lords,
November 18.

Decline of Rugby

From Mr M. A. Gilling

Sir, In your article, "Rugby after school" (November 16), your correspondent suggests that the decline of the sport in many schools in the comprehensive sector "contradicts significantly the decline of the sport nationally." It is indeed true that some schools who have provided a steady supply of players for club, county and country now produce very few, and that the reason for this is in many cases the reluctance of staff to administer or coach the game.

However, Rugby officials themselves must also shoulder their share of blame. Rugby at all levels has

ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 26 1875

"It is just settled; you have it, Madam..." So Disraeli wrote to Queen Victoria when although opposed by many of his colleagues, he purchased, with the aid of the Rothschilds, nearly half of the shares in the Suez Canal Company held by the bankrupt Khedive. Parliament voted the money on February 20 1876.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE SUEZ CANAL

The following is a copy of a telegram received by the Bank of Egypt from that bank's office at Alexandria:

"Egyptian Government sold to English Government Suez Canal shares for £4,000,000 sterling. Minister is authorized to draw this amount on Rothschild at sight."

The following may be stated to be the effect of this transaction: The Khedive having offered to sell to Her Majesty's Government the shares which he holds in the Suez Canal for the sum of four millions sterling, the Government have accepted the offer, subject to the approval of Parliament. The Khedive is the holder of about 177,000 shares of the 400,000 into which the capital of the Company is divided.

Mary Anne Girling (1827-86) founded the "children of God" in 1870 in London eventually settling in Hampshire. At one time the community numbered about 160 people but on her death all but six returned to their families.

THE SHAKERS - Mrs. Girling, the chief of the Shaker community in the New Forest, died in 1886.

During the summer winter, on Tuesday evening Mother Girling conducted a service at the Portland-hall, Southsea, and although the prices of admission were 6d, 1s, and 2s, the hall was densely packed in every part. Mrs. Girling conducted the service with a brief address in which she repudiated the name of "Shakers." She believed there was a sect of the name in America, but she had never been there and she knew nothing of the sect. She and her friends were more like the Quakers, but they preferred to be called the children of God, owing in him a common father. After an earnest prayer, and an anthem which, accompanied by four male and female voices, was sung by her followers on the platform, Mrs. Girling commenced her address. She said that 17 years ago she was brought to God, and since that time she had worked in his cause, and had reclaimed the drunkard, Sabbath-breaker, and liar, and was still of her family, and she knew, as well as she knew anything, that they were all in their knees at that moment at home, praying for the success of that meeting. Her community lived together because they loved each other with a pure and unselfish love, and they could not live apart. They did not labour after the common manner of the world because they did not love the things of the world, and it was wrong to labour for those whose only object was to be contented with the world and the devil. They did not forbid marriage, but they did not encourage it. She had been charged with influencing her followers by means of spiritualism and mesmerism, but it was not so. God did not make himself known by means of chains and tables. Her community was held together by love and the Holy Ghost working through her. Mrs. Girling declared most emphatically that Christ had manifested himself to her several years ago not in the flesh as she saw the audience before her, but as an eternal transparent form. A sight of Him was worth all the gold upon earth, and she would willingly subject herself to persecution and torture to see Him again. The present generation, she said, was the last before the second coming of Christ, and her voice would be the last echo to call sinners to repentance. Near the close of her address, while she was defending the dancing of her followers on the ground that they had the best right to dance seeing that they possessed the greatest happiness, one of the girls rose with a low cry and commenced singing and whirling on the platform. After a time she was joined by another girl. The movements were exceedingly graceful, and free from contortion of any kind. The dancing continued for about a quarter of an hour, and no ill effects seem to ensue on the subsidence of the ecstasy.

become very much a matter of "win at all costs" and thus a close physical contest has taken the place of skilful play.

The emphasis on the physical game is now affecting the schools themselves who, for fear of injury, have recommended that men's teams should not be played, that old boys' sides should not include any player over 21 years old, and even in house matches the recommendation is that the seven-a-side game should take the place of the full fifteen. Is it then any wonder that schools in general are beginning to ask if the game is worth playing?

The Rugby Union must first put its own house in order and remember that its founder, William Webb Ellis, rather than continue playing in a game in which two sides on horse tried to propel the ball to their opponent's line, actually "picked up the ball and ran with it."

Yours faithfully,
M. A. GIRLING,
Dean Close School,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire,
November 18.

End of the road

From Mr W. K. Mackenzie

Sir, Many years ago a public utility in Camborne, Cornwall, warned travellers about road works with a sign ROAD OPEN. In due course I found this to be literally true. With my car I fell into the trench.

Yours faithfully,
W. K. MACKENZIE,
15 Myton Crofts,
Learmonth Spa,
Warwickshire,
November 22.

NEXT YEAR, THE BRITISH ECONOMY WILL BE AFFECTED BY WHAT GOES ON INSIDE THE SENATE, THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND THIS SHEEP'S STOMACH.

This sheep consumes glass. And a lot healthier she is for it, too.

What sets her (and flocks of other sheep) apart from her less fortunate cousins is a Pilkington product called Cosecure, marketed by Coopers Animal Health Limited.

Cosecure is a pellet made from soluble glass. Incorporating 3 essential trace elements and fed to livestock once a year, it stays in the stomach for the entire 12 months.

Gradually it safely dissolves and releases the trace elements at exactly the rate the sheep needs them.

But Cosecure doesn't only make sheep healthier.

It'll provide a shot in the arm for the British economy, too – because although it may sound like a gimmick, it's badly needed by farmers in Britain and abroad.

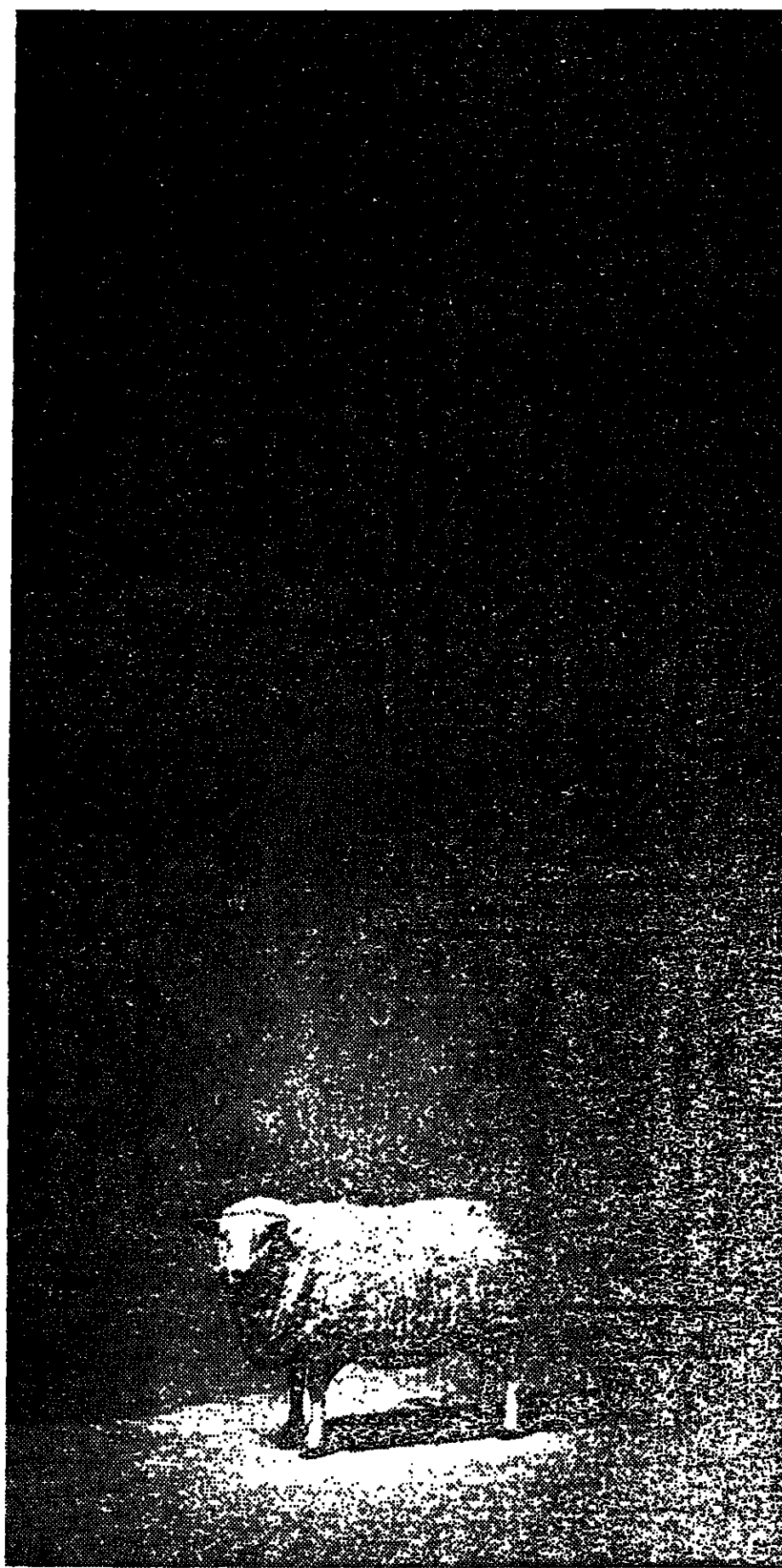
But controlled release glass also has vast potential in the drug industry, in oil, in agrochemicals, shipping, sanitation and building.

Exciting though the idea of soluble glass is, we're well aware that one product doesn't make a company.

But the tiny family business from St Helens which started making windows during The Industrial Revolution now has an enormous range of products, giving us a worldwide turnover of over £1,200,000,000.

Take, for example, our Reactolite Rapide sunglasses, a Pilkington invention which incredibly has three quarters of the Japanese market.

A product Pilkington can put alongside



parts for satellites, parts for lasers and solar cells, for fibre optics and Concorde. Even for the Popemobile.

And we have high hopes for Cemfil glass fibre, which is better qualified to replace asbestos than any other material currently available.

Of course, not all of Pilkington's products will make sheep any healthier.

But every one's a tonic for Britain's economy.



PILKINGTON

ANTE
novelist

TURNER



MONAHAN

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Stores lead the way

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Nov 25. Dealings End, Dec 6. \$ Contango Day, Dec 9, Settlement Day, Dec 16.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

**Claims required for
+43 points**
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

[illegible]

151	Thailand	100	0	14.9	6.7	28
152	Western Europe	260	-15			
153	U.S.	240	0	15.8	6.2	28
154	U.S. dollar	100	0			
OVERSEAS TRADERS						
155	Anglo Indonesian	130	0	13.7	8.1	28
156	Banque Paribas	100	0	17.6	25.0	28
157	Barclays Bank	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
158	Deutsche Bank	100	0	16.8	10.0	28
159	Indochina	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
160	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
161	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
162	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
163	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
164	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
165	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
166	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
167	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
168	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
169	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
170	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
171	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
172	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
173	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
174	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
175	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
176	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
177	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
178	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
179	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
180	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
181	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
182	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
183	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
184	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
185	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
186	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
187	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
188	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
189	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
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194	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
195	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
196	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
197	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
198	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
199	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
200	London	100	0	16.5	10.0	28
PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G						
201	Adcock Inc.	252	-1	1.2	2.5	20
202	Adcock Inc.	252	0	7.1	3.2	20
203	Adcock Inc.	252	0	1.8	1.1	6
204	Adcock Inc.	252	0	1.8	1.1	6
205	Adcock Inc.	252	0	1.8	1.1	6
206	Adcock Inc.	252	0	1.8	1.1	6
207	Adcock Inc.	252	0	1.8	1.1	6
208	Adcock Inc.	252	0	1.8	1.1	6
209	Adcock Inc.	252	0	1.8	1.1	6
210	Adcock Inc.	252	0	1.8	1.1	6
211	Adcock Inc.	252	0	1.8	1.1	6
212	Adcock Inc.	252	0	1.8	1.1	6
213	Adcock Inc.	252	0	1.8	1.1	6
214	Adcock Inc.	252	0	1.8	1.1	6
215	Adcock Inc.	252	0	1.8	1.1	6
216	Adcock Inc.	252	0	1.8	1.1	6
217	Adcock Inc.	252	0	1.8	1.1	6

[illegible]

17	72	Unimut (Judy)	210	..	..	..
18	105	Unimut Washer	210	..	87	4.6 11.5
19	25	Waco	42	..	..	97
20	455	Wardington (H)	550	..	343	5.9 11.4
21	223	Watmough	285	..	89.6	3.1 13.6

109	Albania	299	0	4.5	62	87	44.5
112	Algeria	141	0	1.7	3	3.7	1.7
72	Angola	30	0	0	0	0	0
70	Antigua and Barbuda	0	0	+2	23	2.9	8.4
381	Armenia (CIS)	504	0	0	171	24	12.1
30	Australia	100	0	0	81	5.9	6.3
30	Austria	100	0	-4	81	5.9	6.3
360	Azerbaijan	445	0	0	153	21	18.7
122	Bahrain	154	0	0	10	1.4	2.7
122	Banladesh	154	0	-1	7	0.6	23.7
195	Bat and Countries	251	0	0	23	1.1	1
195	Belize	251	0	0	23	1.1	1
195	Bermuda	190	0	0	82	4.3	16.8
195	Bhutan	190	0	0	82	4.3	16.8
613	BOLIVIA	860	0	0	203b	35	12.5
613	BOLIVIA	860	0	0	203b	35	12.5
85	Bosnia and Herzegovina	168	0	0	58	3.0	21.0
85	Bosnia and Herzegovina	168	0	0	58	3.0	21.0
19	Botswana	103	0	0	21	2.9	7.1
19	Botswana	103	0	0	21	2.9	7.1
85	Brazil	125	0	0	32	2.8	8.4
308	Brazil	555	0	0	186	33	11.7

[illegible][illegible]

25	Partnership	47	• +7	1.4	2.2	34.8
26	Partnership	47	• +7	1.4	2.2	34.8
250	Partnership	275	• +1	11.4	12	36.6
178	Prop & Rev	188	• +1	3.8	3.1	15.5
107	Prop Hedge	125	• +1	5.9	10	29.5
86	Prop Security	125	• +1	4.3	3.4	25.1
7	Regain	9	• +1	0.1	1.4	
74	Regain	405	• +31	5.2	1.3	7.2
8	Reinforce	218	• +4	5.6	0.3	94.1

742	Seniour	168	● -1	8.4	49	25.4
178	Scott Mist	87	● +3	5.7	6.8	20.0
125	Slough Establs	180	...	12.4	4.8	18.2
116	Spryelmist	323	...	7.7	3.9	15.8
146	Stard Loss	150	...	5.4	3.5	21.3
408	Stock Conversion	636	-5	10.7	2.0	24.4
204	Stockley	75	...	...	...	...
38	Town Centre	49	● +1	1.4	2.3	26.2
180	Tortford Park	213	...	19.4	2.7	27.2

525	Warner	896	..	22.9	3.3	24.1
410	Warford	480	..	21.4	4.4	46.3
17	Webb (Joc)	18	..	0.7	4.1	58.1
140	West & Country	142	● +2	11.4	8.0	8.1

SHIPPING

161	Assoc for Ports	386		-2	12.5	3.2	24.9
226	Br Commonwealth	515	●	..	6.3	2.0	27.3
205	Caledonia	303	●	..	6.1	2.0	87.3
90	Fisher (James)	98	●	-4	4.7	4.8	9.1
520	Glasg	613	●	..	17.8	2.9	26.4
52	Jacobus (J)	62	●	..	5.0	6.1	29.7
9	Lytle	10	●	..	..	..	0.1
17	Mem Photo	10	●	..	..	..	0.1

598	P & O Old	440	+7	8.1	4.5	13.6
75	Runciman (Walker)	105	+1	20.0	4.5	13.5
265	Turnbull Scott	370	..	7.1	6.8	31.2
				12.9	3.5	30.5

SHOES AND LEATHER

196	Fit	305	• ..	8.9	2.9	11.0
176	Gunner Booth	182	• ..	13.1	7.2	5.5
81	Headless Sims	35	• ..	3.1	8.7	8.0
133	Landlord Hicworth	218	+5	7.2	3.3	11.4
60	Haddock & Burton	68	• ..	4.4	6.7	
49	Pizzaro	88	• ..	5.8	6.4	6.5
148	Strong & Fisher	134	• ..	10.7	8.8	5.7
123	Style	181	• ..	5.4	6.5	7.4

TEXTILES						
200	Alkal Text	403	●	17.25	44	18.1
104	Alkali Bros	134	●	7.5	57	34.5

68	Backlund (A)	191	0	8.2	8.0	11.7
107 1/2	Er Mohler	136	+1	8.8	8.3	7.4
129	Backlund & Lums	137	-2	7.1	10.8	16.5
129	Costa Potoma	157	0	8.2	8.2	16.5
57 1/2	Corpi	57 1/2	+1	5.7	9.9	9.9
121	Overstade	188	0	7.5	4.1	8.0
27	Greenleaf (J)	85	-2	2.1	2.5	22.1
151	Davies	212	+6	7.8	3.7	13.6
30	Debrun	38	-1	...	...	18.2

83	Dunn (M)	75	3.3	3.5	7.2
87	Foster (Jack)	82	5.7	7.9	18.2
84	Gonzalez (Brendon)	103	7.8	8.0	7.3
37	Hickling (Pentecost)	37	7.8	7.8	
85	Ingram (Harold)	102			36.3
90	Jarome (S)	67	3.5	3.5	12.9
121	Leach	170	4.5	7.8	7.5
65	Lester	89	7.9	4.9	12.4
67	Lyles (R)	81	8.4	8.5	21.4

7	Mission	107	0	5.9	8.1	15.3
9	Partners 'A'	107	-1	6.9	6.4	2.4
140	SECRET	100	+2	7.0	4.4	6.5
28	Shaw Carpets	380		3.5	10.2	19.4
106	Storck	98	+1	6.9	4.1	11.9
33	Strophach (H)	84	0	3.8	7.1	5.7
37	Synrad Play	50		2.2	6.9	11.2
85	Tandem Journey	104	+1	7.1	6.0	7.5
110	Teachdown	178		7.1	6.0	7.5

130	Tobacco	130	...	5.5	4.4	8.9
TOBACCOS						
255	BAT	255	...	15.2	5.5	7.2

111	127	+3	2.1	7.2	13.0
112	128	+3	2.1	7.2	13.0

x dividend. * Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected
 d interim payment passed. e Price at expiration. f
 and yield exclude a special payment. g 100
 h parity. i Premerger figures. j Forecast earnings. p Ex
 111. q Ex right. r Ex zero or share split. s
 Price adjusted for late inclusion or share split.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Sir Terence Superman in another quantum leap

Monday is an odd day to announce a merger. It suggests clandestine weekend meetings in obscure country hotels, the sort of leaks and profound apprehension about lurking predators. But yesterday the professional arguments about a Monday - and the opening day of the new account at that - which saw two major mergers worth jointly well over £4 billion represented something deeply symbolic. One trader recounted how he ringed the day Bursmah collapsed as marking the end of the bear market of the early 70s. Yesterday he put a similar cross against November 25 1985 - as the day when Habitat-Mothercare came for British Home Stores, and Imperial for United Biscuits - as the high water mark of the greatest bull market London has so far seen.

We shall see. The symbolism of the two mergers is perhaps far closer to home. Both proposed deals have a common thread of weakness and vulnerability running through them, which the stock market, at its current level, a by-product of the Thatcher revolution, has made ultimately unsustainable. Woe to the conqueror is the penalty for finishing second in the new business groupings now emerging in Britain.

Exclusive club

This shows itself with great clarity in the proposed merger between British Home Stores and Habitat-Mothercare. The high street retailing club is fast becoming highly exclusive, as the weak are absorbed by the strong in the quest for more selling space, faster throughput, better terms from suppliers, and improved computer technology at point of sale and in the storeroom.

Putting BHS and Habitat-Mothercare together will create a group with combined annual sales of well over £1 billion; more than five million square feet of town centre selling space; six major high street trading formats (BHS, Habitat, Mothercare, Richards, Now, Heals).

The group will have more than one million square feet of overseas selling space, plus a half million square feet of superstore retail space through the BHS involvement with Sainsbury in the joint SavaCentre venture.

The deal is extraordinary in that it brings together a high proportion of major names in British retailing, as well as nearly all the important retailing concepts. Through Habitat, Sir Terence-Conran still has an option to take up a fifth of the Debenhams' selling space in the arrangement he negotiated with Ralph Halpern of Burton Group before Burton's successful bid. At the other end of the retailing spectrum, BHS is involved in out-of-town trading with J. Sainsbury, which professed itself delighted yesterday with the merger. Meanwhile, the mere fact of putting together BHS and Habitat Mothercare will create ripples which should reach both Marks & Spencer, BHS' old trading rivals

in the high street, and Woolworths, whose lively so closely resembles the BHS facade.

The terms of the deal favour Habitat-Mothercare. The 33 per cent income benefit in the current year for Habitat shareholders contrasts with a 14 per cent gain for BHS shareholders. Sir Terence-Conran is to become chairman and chief executive of the new group, even though Habitat-Mothercare will hold only some 45 per cent of the equity. The success of the link-up is predicated on Sir Terence's ability to engineer considerable benefits from the BHS chain, which, after a spell of vigour, has become again a by-word for solid rather than inspired management.

BHS has been growing far more slowly than Habitat-Mothercare. In the early 80s, BHS was making £44 million pretax profits, and last year the figure was £64 million, on capital employed of £263 million. Roughly, over the same period, Habitat profits have risen tenfold, while capital employed has risen from about £10 million to well over £165 million. BHS sales a square foot are about £180, and far lower than Habitat returns. The challenge for Sir Terence is clear.

The enlarged group would still be small, compared with Marks and Spencer, with a capital employed of around £1½ billion, and annual sales of well over £3 billion. Sir Terence is hoping to achieve what Stanley Kalms secured through his bid for Currys - a quantum leap in profits and scale of operation through acquiring a solid but slightly old-fashioned retail chain. Not surprisingly Morgan Grenfell, which orchestrated the Dixons' bid, is acting for Habitat. Roger Seelig, of both the merchant bank and the Habitat board has learned a thing or two in the past 12 months. This is an agreed merger, not a messy takeover.

Impending swoop

Weakness is also the *leitmotiv* of the possible link-up between Imperial Group and United Biscuits. But *allego con brio* it the tempo here, rather than *moderato cantabile*. Imperial, mauled by its US experience, has just received the \$314 million from the sale of the Howard Johnson hotel chain, and all the talk in the market is of an impending swoop on Imperial by Hanson Trust.

United Biscuits is a strange bedfellow for Imperial, given that United, too, has had its problems with the cookie war in America, with Procter & Gamble and Nabisco. United is also in the throes of management reorganisation, and it, too, has been a subject of persistent bid speculation.

Two victims of the storm huddling together for protection was how the market chose to interpret yesterday's hurried and brief statement which emerged yesterday. It remains to be seen whether Lord Hanson has anything to add.

The Stockton effect spreads

The Institute of Fiscal Studies has become (along with Lord Stockton) the most damaging critic of the Government's privatization programme. Last night, its director, John Kay stepped up the attack in a lecture to the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants.

The IFS complaint, in a nutshell, is that ministers have abandoned the search for market solutions that first fired the privatization programme. Instead of using the ending of state monopolies to liberalize markets and promote more competition for customers, ministers have, according to Mr Kay, "succumbed to 'pressure from the management of the industries concerned, particularly gas and airports'. Without competition, regulatory agencies have to be interposed between the privatized corporations and the Government severely diluting the original concept.

"It should be clearly understood," he contended, "that so long as these

industries are privatized in their present form they are not, and cannot be, commercial organizations like private firms. British Gas and British Airports cannot be established on the basis of concerns whose primary objective is profit maximization."

If the privatized organizations are still planning agencies for industries as in the case of airports or gas, "it makes no sense to privatize the planning agency."

This is an exaggeration. The power of competition for capital in the market should not be underestimated. And as John Moore, the Financial Secretary, to the Treasury has pointed out, consumer protection is likely to be better in practice under arms-length regulation than under theoretical public control and accountability even if regulatory agencies are far from perfect.

The central point remains. In both gas and airports, ready measures to promote competition are being ignored and artificial elements of monopoly retained.

Gatt scales down rise in world trade to 3%

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

World trade growth by volume this year will be less than 3 per cent above the 1984 figure, economists of the Geneva Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) said yesterday as the world trade body opened its annual session, attended by delegates from more than 70 of its 90 member nations.

The latest Gatt figure compares with its earlier estimate of up to 5.5 per cent - reduced in September to 4 per cent. This announcement, by the chairman, Mr Felipe Jaramillo, of Colombia, as he opened the 41st session, served to underline the necessity of agreement on

setting up a committee to work out an agenda for a new round of multi-lateral negotiations for further liberalizing world trade.

This will be the eighth since Gatt was created 38 years ago. The last one was the Tokyo round ending in 1973. Efforts for an accord on the preparatory committee, so that the session could be presented with a *fait accompli*, were stymied by continuing opposition on the part of some developing countries, principally Brazil, India and Argentina, to the inclusion on the agenda of services, including telecommunications, insurance and transport.

Bairstow to name bidder

Bairstow Eves, the first company of residential estate agents to go public is expected to announce today that it has agreed a merger with Hambros Bank, the merchant banking operation, writes Judith Hanley, Commercial Property Correspondent.

Bairstow's shares were suspended yesterday at the company's request. The estate agent was valued

at £77 million on Friday when the approach was made by Hambros but it is believed there was more than one bidder. Barclays Bank and the Midland were also tipped as potential buyers. Meanwhile, Bairstow has sold its stake in Connells, a rival quoted company of estate agents. The holding, just under five per cent, has been placed with the Legal & General Group.

Prospect of dollar slide grows as yen gathers strength

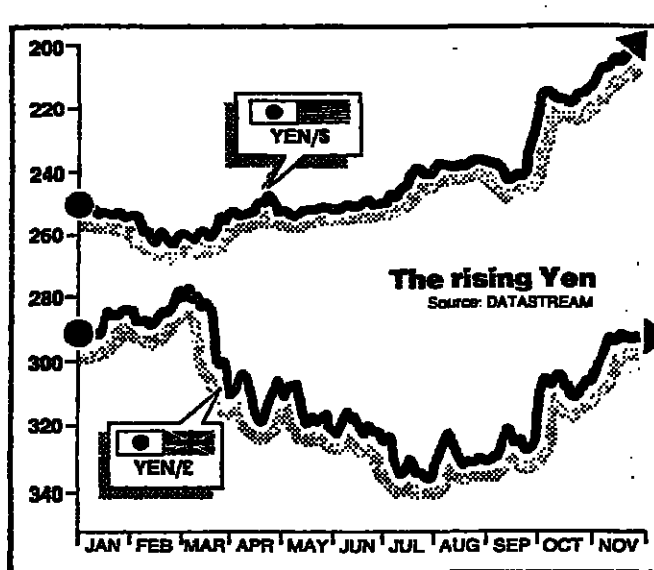
By Richard Thomson and David Watts

The yen briefly broke through the important Y200 point against the dollar yesterday, when the dollar traded weakly against most international currencies. At the same time sterling climbed to its highest level against the dollar since spring last year.

The dollar opened on Far East markets near the Y200 mark yesterday morning, dipping to 199.8 for a short time. Market analysts see the Y200 level as a crucial support point: if the dollar falls below that level for two or three days experts believe it will continue to fall sharply. In London, however, the dollar failed to fall below Y200, trading in a band between Y200.70 and Y202.20.

The Governor of the Bank of Japan, Mr Satoshi Sumit, said yesterday that the market appeared to be gradually accepting a stronger yen. But for the first time since the Group of Five meeting in New York in late September, a leading manufacturer criticized the speed of the yen's appreciation, which has been hitting small and medium sized firms.

Mr Takashi Ishihara, chairman of Nissan Motors - one of



Japan's largest car exporters - said the Y200 level came too quickly. He had hoped that a rate of Y210 would prevail for some time, adding that manufacturers could not be expected to bear the full burden of the adverse effects of the yen's appreciation. Dealers as well as customers should bear part of it, he said.

The last time the dollar fell below Y200 was in January 1981. Dealers attributed the dollar's recovery during the day to profit-taking, but said that lack of buying from importers had prevented it from bouncing back further. Some felt that a renewed pledge from monetary authorities on continued intervention was needed to push the

dollar permanently below Y200.

The dollar's weakness was encouraged by hopes of lower US interest rates and by the improved atmosphere between East and West after last week's summit in Geneva. This enabled sterling to reach \$1.4694 during trading in London yesterday.

Sterling's strength started in Far East markets encouraged by last week's firmer oil prices. In London, the Government's announcement of a better than expected £400 current account surplus helped the currency to rise further, though some dealers were surprised at its strength.

Sterling's trade-weighted index - the measure against a basket of currencies - reached 80.8 during the day, up from Friday's close of 80.1. It fell back slightly in the afternoon, however, to close at 80.6.

The pound moved little against the mark, closing in London at DM3.75 compared with DM3.73 at Friday's close. The mark also held steady against the dollar, trading in New York at around DM2.5660 for most of the day.

European Ferries 'may join winning Channel consortium'

By Clare Dobie

European Ferries Group, the owner of Townsend Thoresen, may join one of the consortia hoping to build a fixed link across the English Channel.

The company has been a leading campaigner against a tunnel or bridge but its chairman, Mr Ken Siddle, said yesterday that it would review its position if, as expected, the project is approved in the new year.

Mr Siddle said that many ferry services would cease once the fixed link is in operation. Only the routes from Dover would be viable, he said. This implies the closure of passenger facilities at ports on the south coast such as Portsmouth and Weymouth.



Ken Siddle: "Many ferry services could cease"

If the fixed link is approved despite these arguments, European Ferries would consider joining the successful bidder.

European Ferries could contribute its knowledge on transporting passengers and freight across the Channel.

European Ferries is investing heavily in new ferries. It recently announced that it had ordered two large ferries costing £35 million each. It also is "stretching", or increasing, the capacity of four other vessels.

The Government is due to announce its choice for the fixed link in January. The principal contenders include Euroroute, the Channel Tunnel Group and Eurobridge. Sealink, the main rival to Townsend Thoresen, has put forward its own scheme, called Expressway, which incorporates a road and rail scheme.

Move for the Fab Four flop

By Ian Griffiths

The Beatles have flopped in Liverpool and are being sent to London where they may have a better chance of making a living. The people of Liverpool have voted the Beatles City exhibition of music and memorabilia a resounding flop.

The exhibition was set up less than two years ago as a permanent tribute to the exploits of the Fab Four. However, it is losing so much money that the owner, Radio City, the Liverpool independent radio station, has been forced to sell.

The exhibition will move to London in the next few months, once a home for it has been found.

The new owner is British but its identity remains a secret. Nor has the purchase price been disclosed.

About 100,000 visitors a year made the pilgrimage to the exhibition. However, most were foreign tourists, and if all goes well it should attract more visitors in London.

The exhibition cost £1 million to stage. Most of the money came from Radio City, paid for from the proceeds of its floatation on the USM. However, there was some financial help from local authorities and tourist agencies.

Beatles City has never made money and has largely been responsible for driving Radio City into the red. Yesterday the radio station reported a pre-tax loss of £181,000 for the year to September 30, down from a profit of £261,000.

The company also suffered from a drop in advertising revenue caused by the economic and other difficulties on Merseyside. Turnover fell to £2.8 million from £3.7 million. No dividend will be paid.

Steinberg agrees to limit shares in new Mercury

By William Kay, City Editor

Mr Saul Steinberg, the American financier, yesterday watered down his stated ambition to own up to 20 per cent of Mercury Securities, parent company of the City merchant bank, S. G. Warburg.

Reliance Group, the US insurance company headed by Mr Steinberg, announced that it and its affiliates would limit their aggregate holdings in Mercury's shares to less than 10 per cent after the implementation of the proposed four-way merger of Mercury with the stockbrokers, Rowe and Pimman and Mullens & Co, and the jobbers Akroyd and Smithers.

This means that Reliance does not have to sell any of its existing 10.7 per cent stake in Mercury, as the merger will dilute that to less than 10 per cent.

The compromise "clarification" has been hammered out after a week of intensive talks. Last week Mr David Scholey, the chairman of Mercury, said that no one should hold more than 10 per cent of the shares of a company like Mercury.

Last night Mr Scholey and Mr Steinberg said they were pleased with the understanding

Hilldown buys Needlers for £3.4 million

By Lawrence Lever

Hilldown Holdings, the expansionist food, furniture and office equipment group, has made an agreed £3.4 million bid for Needlers, the Hull confectionary manufacturer.

The terms of the bid are 166p cash a Needlers ordinary share. Hilldown has already received irrevocable acceptances for 54.2 per cent of Needlers' ordinary shares.

Mr Raymond Needler, chairman and managing director of Needlers, said yesterday that he thought the Hilldown bid would strengthen Needlers' capacity to compete with the big confectionary manufacturers. Hilldown yesterday declared unconditional its £2.7 million offer for Walker & Homers Group the South Wales furniture manufacturer. Hilldown has received acceptances representing 70.7 per cent of Walker & Homers' ordinary shares.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	1146.9 (+11.6)
FT All Share	702.06 (+0.13)
FT Govt Securities	1,455.5 (+4.5)
FT-SE 100	26,000
Dataseam USM	109.32 (+0.41)
New York	
Dow Jones	1,454.81 (-8.52)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	12,783.39 (+24.06)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1,736.49 (+23.67)
Amsterdam Gen	239.2 (+0.5)
Sydney AG	1,000.5 (+8.9)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1,774.5 (+1.1)
Brussels	
General	986.38 (+4.02)
Paris CAC	248.3 (+1.7)
Zurich	
SKA General	454.50 (+0.40)

GOLD

London fixing	am \$330.50p-\$330.20
close	\$330.75-\$331.25 (\$226.25-226.75)
New York	
Comex (Latest)	\$330.45

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Sutcliffe, Spkmm	45p +8p
Gabriel	122p +10p
Audiotronic	4p +0.5p
Gent (SR)	70p +8p
Ass. Special Sits.	80p +8p
United Biscuits	268p +27p
Rotaprint	5p +0.50p
Audio Fidelity	80p +8p
Neelco	161p +10p
Brit. Home Stores	408p +36p
Cpu Computers	23p +2p
Berford Group	92p +7p
Smith St. Aubyn	40p +3p
Regalton Props.	405p +30p
Piston Int.	183p +12p
ICC Oil Services	7p +0.50p
Cook Wm (Sheffield)	71p +5p
Westland	71p +5p
Cadbury Schweppes	158p +6p
Microwave	30p +2p
Falcon Inds.	31p +2p
Wolsley-Hughes	580p +37p
FALLS:	
Tyzaack(W) & Turner	78p -15p
Radio City "A" NV	31p -5p
Intavis Video	4.50p -0.50p
Apricot Computer	59p -5p

CURRENCIES

Friday's close and change on week	
London:	
\$: \$1.4820 (+0.0078)	
DM: DM 3.7497 (+0.0052)	
Sfr: Sfr 3.0709 (+0.0093)	
FF: FF 11.4248 (+0.0157)	
Yen: Yen 243.43 (+1.2)	
Index: 80.8 (+0.5)	
New York (Latest):	
\$: \$1.4615	
DM: DM 2.5660	
Index: 127.1 (-0.4)	
ECU: ECU 5.58688	
SDR: SDR 7.49018	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base:	11¼%
3-month Interbank:	11¼%-11½%
3-month Treasury Bills:	buying rate 11¼%-11½%
US:	
Prime Rate:	9.50%
Federal Funds:	7¼%
3-month Treasury Bills:	7.20%-7.19%
30-year bond price:	99½%-99¾%

Index soars to 1,146.9

Equities continued their record-breaking progress yesterday, the first day of a new account was often heavy and the FT 30 share index climbed 11.5 points to 1,146.9. Earlier it had been even higher. The more broadly based FT-SE share index was up 4.5 points at 1,455.5.

Dataseam calculated that yesterday's upsurge, prompted largely by take-over activity, added £972 million to the stock market's value.

The merger of Habitat Mothercare and British Home Stores and the disclosure that Imperial Group was in merger talks with United Biscuits generated much of the market excitement.

Consequently stores and food shares were particularly active. Governing stocks joined in the advance. Helped by a firm pound on the back of hopes of lower American interest rates, they improved by up to £½.

Barham in £12m tip sheet deal

Barham Group is more than doubling its size with the purchase for £12.3 million of Fleet Street Publications, the publisher of tip sheets, from Carlton Communications. A further £900,000 is being spent on Cocks Williamson Associates, a market research consultancy.

Barham is raising £15.3 million net with a four-for-three rights issue and a placing of 2.7 million.

Bid talks

Talks are in progress which may lead to an offer for Smith St. Aubyn, the discount house group, the company has announced. The board said that such an offer would be unlikely to be a significant premium to the present market price of the shares.

Marshall's gains

Marshall's Halifax, the paying slab group, has increased pretax profits from £3.5 million to £4.1 million for the half year to September 30. Sales rose to £36.5 million from £33 million. The interim dividend is 1.5p, up from 1p. *Tempos, page 23*

Norton surges

Norton Opar, the specialist printing and publishing group, made pretax profits of £2.1 million in the half year to September 30, a rise of 111.5 per cent. The dividend was raised to 1p, a 20 per cent increase on the enlarged equity. *Tempos, page 23*

Dunhill ahead

Dunhill Holdings, the luxury consumer products group, has raised p.p.-tax profits to £8 million from £5.8 million. Sales rose to £61.8 million from £53 million. The interim dividend is up to 2p from 1.5p. *Tempos, page 23*

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COMMODITIES

2.3	0.8	225	205	Tr National Flow	205	2.7	1.2
0.3	2.5	111	70	Tr North America	80	2.8	2.2
0.1	0.6	145	511	Tr Pacific Basin	118	7.4	1.2
+1	12.8	132	128	Tr Property	151	21	2.1
+2	7.0	101	70	Tr Tech	161	2.0	2.4
-2	5.2	104	104		161	2.0	2.4

TRUSTS

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NEWS BACKGROUND

How the Conran magic wand could transform BHS

The merger between Habitat 66 and British Home Stores marks the latest milestone in the apparently inexorable rise of Sir Terence Conran in the country's high streets.

He has already developed his group from one trendy store in London's Fulham Road into a wide-ranging retail chain, taking in wastepaper bins, cushions, furniture, baby rompers and women's fashions.

Now he is accepting the challenge of one of Britain's most solid and reliable household goods store network into yet another version of the Conran vision of how we all ought to be living - and spending.

For years British Home Stores has suffered and survived from its stock market image as the nearest rival to Marks and Spencer. There is no doubt that M & S became an obsession at BHS's ultra-functional head office opposite Marylebone Station.

It was frequently referred to as "another company in the high street", not to be mentioned by name except in hushed tones and then only accompanied by a nervous laugh.

It was a game BHS could not win. It was always destined to come second to M & S in what was, in any case, an unfair comparison. But the alleged rivalry also had the advantage of giving BHS a little of the reflected glow from the M & S halo.

The real disadvantage, however, has been that the comparison prevented the top management at BHS from thinking independently. M & S was its line and its yardstick of success. Such rigidity of thinking was not helped by the group's recent habit of appointing former captains of industry to be chairman.

Admirable as Sir Mark Turner, Jack Callard and Sir ace Hodgson have proved, they were not in the best position to challenge their executive's proposals, let alone lead BHS in new directions when the retailing industry has been going through its most

HOW THEY COMPARE				
	Market Capitalization £m	Turnover £m	Pretax profit £m	Number of stores
BHS	850	550	60.9	128
Habitat	667	446	36.5	560

radical change since the department store concept was imported from the US early this century.

Sir Terence, by contrast, comes from a different generation and is very much his own man. He has shown that he finds difficulty in working with, let alone for, others, except on a strictly arm's-length contract.

His most unfortunate experience was his attempt to merge Habitat with Ryman, the stationers, in the early 1970s.

Although he insists that he will not make radical changes at BHS, he has left his mark on every retailing group with which he has been associated.

Sir Terence freshened up what had become a tired looking Mothercare, a successful "concept" chain that had lost impetus as its joint founder, Mr Selim Zilkha, developed other interests. The other joint founder, Sir James Goldsmith, had left in the early days.

Conran then bestowed his flair on J. Hephworth, a menswear group which had previously suffered from the slump in demand for suits. He inspired the Next idea for shops selling women's clothes, a move which has done so much to transform the company's financial fortunes under the subsequent guidance of Mr George Davies, that it has now become the group's name.

But that was a pure chairmanship role, which Sir Terence gave up to pursue his ambition that the Habitat group should itself branch into women's fashions.

That opportunity came when the attempted independent management buyout of Richard Shops foundered, enabling Conran to step in, rename the outlets Richards and put his design teams into the stores.

Along the way, conscious that

his original Habitat shopping audience was growing past the age of impulse buys, he picked up Heal's furniture stores, which had been privately owned and jealously guarded by the Heal family.

Only Sir Terence had the credibility and integrity to persuade the family to part with their inheritance. He has certainly made changes, but in

It has long been recognised that this corner of retailing can bring tremendous financial windfalls. Folklore in the trade has long held that Great Universal Stores, the vast masters of mail order, makes more out of the credit side of the business than they do on the goods themselves.

If an efficient and workable "remote" operation can be developed, then it could have a significant impact on the Habitat business, whose catalogue is highly esteemed in fashionable parts of Britain's leading cities, but which has never been fully exploited.

BHS - as it will probably be known rather than the cumbersome full name - also has the power of bulk buying.

We can expect at least some products to appear in both BHS and Habitat to make use of this power as well as testing to see what the BHS audience will find palatable from Sir Terence's more eclectic tastes.

A fascinating consequence of the merger will be the response of the new group's high street rivals. It is likely to spur an acceleration in M & S's own switch towards a more fashion-conscious approach.

Rank's video distribution business in Britain also overlaps with that of Thorn EMI, Thorn EMI puts the book value of Screen Entertainment at £100 million, consisting of £35 million for the cinemas, £35 million for Elstree film studios and £30 million for the film and video library.

William Kay City Editor

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Bid fever adds £952m to shares value

By Derek Pain and Cliff Feltham

Equities were once again in record breaking form yesterday with share values leading the field. The creation of a new retailing colossus through the merger of Habitat Mothercare and British Home Stores gave retail stocks, already enjoying their traditional pre-Christmas glow, a new surge of enthusiasm.

Helped by the takeover fervour the new account started with the FT 30 share index continuing its seemingly remorseless progress towards 1,200 points. It closed at a peak of 1,146.9 points, up 11.5

Stirling Group, which sells its endearing output of womenswear to Marks and Spencer, is on the takeover trail. Ideally it wants to snap up another Marks and Spencer supplier to broaden its product range. The shares yesterday shot up 11p to 100p after a 30 per cent rise in half-time prices. Brokers are now looking to at least £2.1 million for the full year.

points. The FT-SE share index finished at 1,145.5 points, up 4.5 points.

According to Datasearch, share values improved by £952 million. The gain this year is now £29.43 billion.

In the year, the merger mania among retailing groups has pushed Barton's shares higher. Barton's shares closed at 229p, up 11p, after touching 234p. The speed with which Imps moved suggested that the company is fearful of a bid. Hanson Trust remains the market's favourite to pounce.

Up jumped 21p to 266p; Unigate 6p to 230p; Northern Rock 6p to 304p and Rowntree 7p to 304p. An old takeover favourite, 22p to 412p.

Cadbury Schweppes, another company never far from bid talk, again found itself the focus of speculation. The shares hit

409p. Habitat Mothercare rose 18p to 566p.

Combined English Stores, where Warburg Investment Management has lifted its shareholding to 23 per cent, advanced 6p to 172p; Courts (Furnishings) gained 10p to 186p and Harris Queensway improved 20p to 288p before losing a few coppers on profit taking.

Boots was wanted, hitting 272p, up 17p. The shares have climbed 50p since last week's interim figures. Great Universal Stores was another strong and Sear's also attracted buying. Woolworth Holdings gained 5p to 596p.

Burton Group, however, missed the party. Its shares fell 12p to 59p on worries that the HM-BHS merger will prompt Sir Terence Conran, the HM chairman, to drop his options in connected with Debenhams.

Foods were also in demand as Imperial Group seemed to rush to spend its cash intake from the sale of its troublesome Howard Johnson offshoot by announcing talks with United Biscuits.

The Barclay twins, Frederick and David, have acquired 3 per cent of Imps. They own two breweries, W. C. Carr and Cobbold Breweries. Some wonder whether they hope to arrange a beer deal with Imps.

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Cadbury Schweppes, another company never far from bid talk, again found itself the focus of speculation. The shares hit

160p for a rise of 13p before closing at 158p. Talk is of keen American buying but there is also thought to be interest closer to home. Dealers say that an offer of at least 200p would be needed to launch an assault.

Support for the food sector also pushed Bassett Foods up 7p to 160p and lifted Hazlewood 10p to 818p.

Dealers again set their sights on some bid action in Ranks. Hovis McDougall, inspired by thoughts that S and W Berisford may be tempted to pass on at a big profit its 15 per cent shareholding. RHM has now

come up from 123p this year and yesterday went another 3p better to finish the day at 178p, level with its best so far.

One of the best movers was the chemical group, Suncliff. The shares, rising 6p to 45p. Dealers say there were a number of small buyers in what is anyway a tight market. The Lancashire-based company is 47 per cent controlled by Wymouth Lehr, a chemicals merchandiser.

Ward White, with its growing number of retail businesses, benefited from the sentiment in the high-street and, with talk of a substantial American acquisition in the pipeline, strengthened 4p to 290p.

In an otherwise buoyant stores arena, the northern chain, Peters Stores, slumped 5p to 71p after reporting a loss approaching £2 million. The company has stumbled on poor trading conditions and is

planning to sell the majority of its shops and turn itself into a property and investment group.

The planned get-together between oil minnows, Petrol and Berkeley Exploration, first mentioned in these columns, has come unstuck. The companies announced yesterday that merger talks had been called off, leaving Petrol's 50 per cent shareholding in the USM-owned Berkeley 2p better at 90p. Elsewhere in oils, Britoil was 10p up at one stage before settling at 240p, up 5p, while Barmah improved 5p to 306p. Tricentrol lost more ground, 3p down on the day at 160p.

Babstow Eves, hilly tipped to be on the brink of being taken over by Hambros after announcement of bid talks, was suspended at 152p, down 4p, pending further details. Connells was at an unchanged 168p and the other quoted estate agents, Mann & Company, fell 2p to 236p.

Dawson International was 4p ahead at 210p ahead of half-time figures on Thursday, while elsewhere in textiles Strood Riley weakened 2p to 64p.

British Aerospace rose 15p to 480p. Top management is thought to have launched in the City yesterday and on Monday analysts are due to visit the Airbus operations in France. There are hopes of a significant new order - possibly from Japan - being announced.

ML Holdings improved 8p to 338p following an analysis meeting.

Asset Special Situations Trust, where Mr Brian Banks, the investment manager, and British Land, have appeared on the scene improved 5p to 40p. A City yesterday and on Monday analysts are due to visit the Airbus operations in France. There are hopes of a significant new order - possibly from Japan - being announced.

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Rank leads race for Thorn EMI division

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

The Rank Organisation is emerging as the front runner in Thorn EMI's auction of its Screen Entertainment division.

About 30 companies expressed an initial interest when the ABC cinema chain and Elstree film studio business was put up for sale last month and these have now been cut to a short list of six.

Rank is believed to be the only one that has come forward with an offer near the £100 million or so that Thorn EMI wants for the division.

The management bid being organized by Screen Entertainment's Mr Gary Dartnall, with help from County Bank, falls significantly short of the asking price, and it is thought unlikely that Mr Dartnall will be able to raise the extra money.

Other leading contenders include Cannon, an American group which produced the film *Death Wish*, and the Classic chain of cinemas in Britain, and Mr Gerald Ross's Heron Corporation.

Contrary to speculation at the weekend, Television South is not in the running, and the interest by Mr Robert Maxwell, Mirror Group Newspapers' publisher, is described by one insider as "barely serious".

Rank was defeated at the last minute in the recent sale by Grand Metropolitan of Mecca Leisure and Warner Holidays.

Rank put in a bid worth £100 million but the division was sold last week to a management consortium for £95 million.

One possible obstacle to a bid by Rank for Screen Entertainment is a reference to the Monopolies Commission.

Rank already owns 77 Odeon cinemas in Britain, Pinewood film studios and one of the largest video duplication businesses in Europe.

Rank's video distribution business in Britain also overlaps with that of Thorn EMI, Thorn EMI puts the book value of Screen Entertainment at £100 million, consisting of £35 million for the cinemas, £35 million for Elstree film studios and £30 million for the film and video library.

William Kay City Editor

Stores surge upstages £8m Dunhill profits

Given the upward mobility of the stores sector yesterday, the £8m Dunhill profits, which were the least cause for excitement. Although Rothmans International, which owns 50.6 per cent of the Dunhill Group, is reported to have no plans to change its stake, the time may be approaching when it is prepared to reduce the level of its investment and allow the offshoot to float more freely.

With net cash of around £18 million and rising, Dunhill has the resources to go it alone with its ambitious acquisition and marketing plans. The shares could still go higher.

There is still more to be saved from good housekeeping exercises, but with a positive gross cash flow of £5 million, most efforts are going into re-equipping to keep up with or ahead of the latest developments in its specialist and expanding areas of printing and publishing.

The prospective p/e ratio taking the cautious view, is 14.6, which is not too demanding given the growth record and prospects.

Marshall's Halifax Liverpool may be in financial difficulties but some councils can clearly still find the odd bob or two. Marshall's Halifax sells most of its concrete paving blocks to local authorities and yesterday it reported growing demand. As a result, profits grew by 18 per cent to £4.14 million before tax in the six months to September.

The chairman, Mr David Marshall, says the company can sustain this rate of growth, despite the restraints on public spending.

The stock market, however, has recently shown signs of nerves, with the shares falling from a high of 186p last month to 166p yesterday. Admittedly they have had a good run, rising from 106p a year ago (adjusted for the recent scrip issue).

Marshall's plans to use its strong share price to pay for acquisitions and hopes to buy new sources of growth this way. It already makes concrete paving, kerbstones and walling products and is looking to expand the range.

In addition the engineering division, which makes mining equipment and hand tools, is growing fast. But compared with the concrete products and quarrying business, it is likely to remain small.

Critics can point to the company's poor performance on earnings. But the fall here reflects a one-off rise in the tax charge so progress should in theory be resumed next year. Whether that happens depends on how many shares are issued for acquisitions, because makers of concrete products tend to demand high multiples.

Marshall's itself trades on 14 times earnings, assuming profits reach £7 million in the full year. Fears of earnings dilution could hold back the shares, in the short term at least.

Dunhill remains quite subdued about its French fashion and perfume acquisition. The £2.5 million made a small contribution but will take some time to be fully integrated. There is certainly scope for it to become an important part of the group as its ranges are marketed more effectively, in the Dunhill style, particularly to department stores.

Ironically, Dunhill's ciga-

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With net cash of around £18 million and rising, Dunhill has the resources to go it alone with its ambitious acquisition and marketing plans. The shares could still go higher.

There is still more to be saved from good housekeeping exercises, but with a positive gross cash flow of £5 million, most efforts are going into re-equipping to keep up with or ahead of the latest developments in its specialist and expanding areas of printing and publishing.

The prospective p/e ratio taking the cautious view, is 14.6, which is not too demanding given the growth record and prospects.

Marshall's Halifax Liverpool may be in financial difficulties but some councils can clearly still find the odd bob or two. Marshall's Halifax sells most of its concrete paving blocks to local authorities and yesterday it reported growing demand. As a result, profits grew by 18 per cent to £4.14 million before tax in the six months to September.

The chairman, Mr David Marshall, says the company can sustain this rate of growth, despite the restraints on public spending.

The stock market, however, has recently shown signs of nerves, with the shares falling from a high of 186p last month to 166p yesterday. Admittedly they have had a good run, rising from 106p a year ago (adjusted for the recent scrip issue).

Marshall's plans to use its strong share price to pay for acquisitions and hopes to buy new sources of growth this way. It already makes concrete paving, kerbstones and walling products and is looking to expand the range.

In addition the engineering division, which makes mining equipment and hand tools, is growing fast. But compared with the concrete products and quarrying business, it is likely to remain small.

Critics can point to the company's poor performance on earnings. But the fall here reflects a one-off rise in the tax charge so progress should in theory be resumed next year. Whether that happens depends on how many shares are issued for acquisitions, because makers of concrete products tend to demand high multiples.

Marshall's itself trades on 14 times earnings, assuming profits reach £7 million in the full year. Fears of earnings dilution could hold back the shares, in the short term at least.

Dunhill remains quite subdued about its French fashion and perfume acquisition. The £2.5 million made a small contribution but will take some time to be fully integrated. There is certainly scope for it to become an important part of the group as its ranges are marketed more effectively, in the Dunhill style, particularly to department stores.

Ironically, Dunhill's ciga-

rette royalties, with which the group is perhaps more readily associated, give the least cause for excitement. Although Rothmans International, which owns 50.6 per cent of the Dunhill Group, is reported to have no plans to change its stake, the time may be approaching when it is prepared to reduce the level of its investment and allow the offshoot to float more freely.

With net cash of around £18 million and rising, Dunhill has the resources to go it alone with its ambitious acquisition and marketing plans. The shares could still go higher.

There is still more to be saved from good housekeeping exercises, but with a positive

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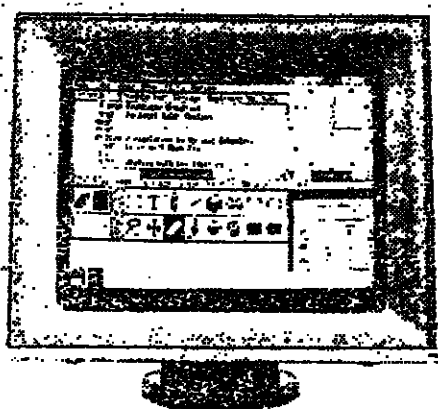
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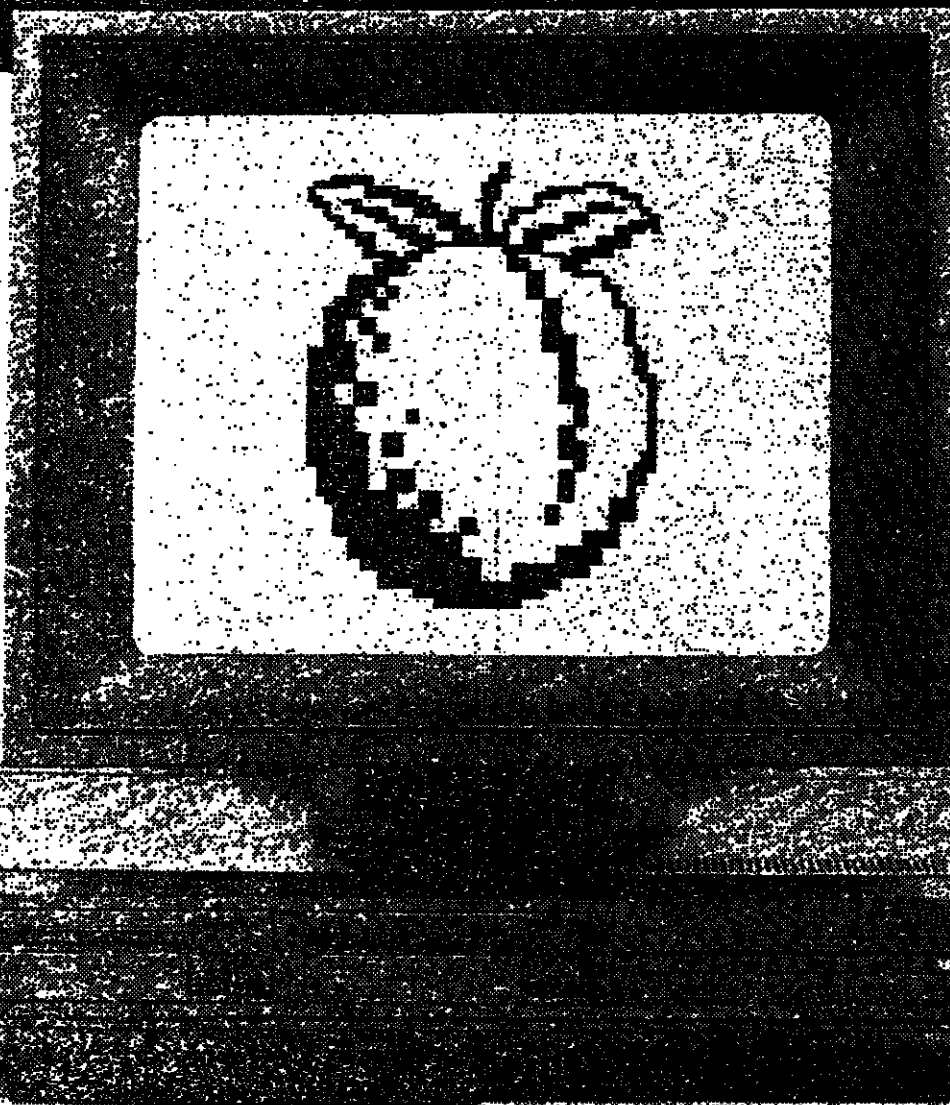
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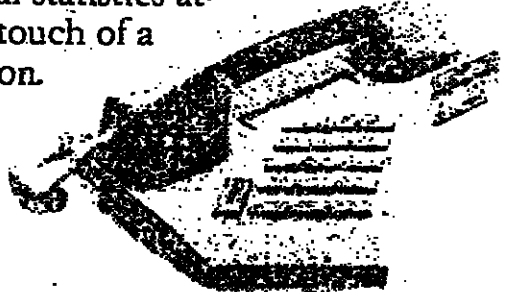
£2,490. (EXCL. VAT)



Using MS-Windows, even complex commands can be activated by simply spinning the trackball on the Mouse to move or select data and software.

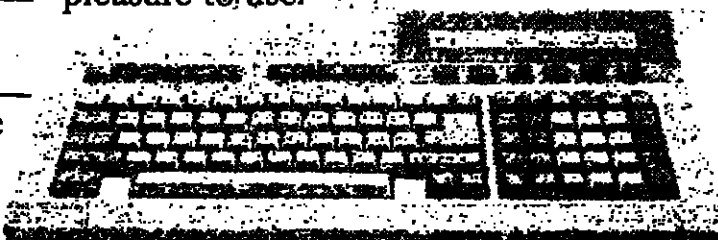
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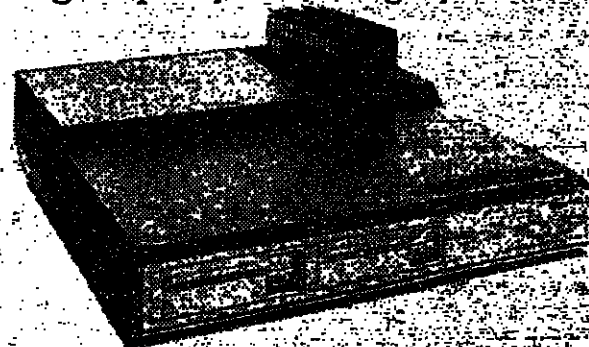
Included amongst the 102 keys are ten function keys and another six dedicated to the Apricot MicroScreen.

This integral display helps you use your software more efficiently as well as doubling up as a calendar, clock and calculator.

The power to expand.

Few micro's can compete with the storage and expansion capabilities of Apricot XEN.

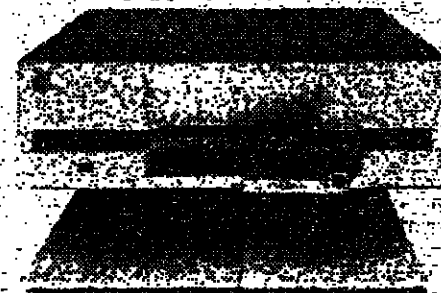
Two basic configurations are offered including an integral 20Mb Winchester drive within the systems box which can be upgraded to include a second 20Mb Winchester giving a truly gargantuan storage capacity of 40 Megabytes.



An easily removed cover reveals six expansion slots. These can be used to expand the memory up to a massive 5Mb or for an internal modem or network card.

The power to drive 5.25 disks.

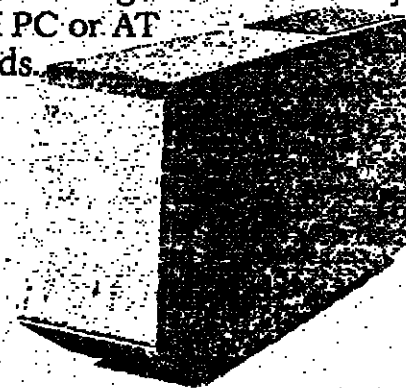
The Apricot XEN not only runs the advanced 3.5" disk, but also offers the option of an add-on 5.25" drive.†



This enables you to easily accept data from your old IBM disks.

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Frank Brown

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COMPUTER HORIZONS/1

Stop your rivals shuffling the pack

Managers could find whole sections of their computer departments defecting to other companies if a new recruitment technique becomes popular.

Pack hunting, the signing up of a complete department or section of skilled staff, is a practice that has touched advertising and sales for many years but is new to the computing and technological sectors.

Stock market deregulation with its rapid expansion of electronics communication processing is generating a high level of demand for experienced staff who are already in short supply.

And British high technology and communications groups can look very tempting to foreign multi-nationals trying to break into the British market.

Although an entire computer department is probably too large a mouthful for most predators to swallow, small sections of five or six analysts or network specialists would be a convenient and economical way of gaining expertise at short notice.

The classic tactic for the coupe de group is to attract the departmental head and then use him to recruit the best members of his own staff.

Peter Brown, of Reward Regional Surveys, who helped

prepare an Institute of Directors survey which included this area, recommends several measures for keeping skilled staff within their companies.

He suggests generous housing loans with fierce surrender provisions, significant completion rewards with staggered payouts for project completions and the strict enforcement of confidentiality clauses in employee contracts through court action.

Managers should also take steps to duplicate essential functions in case their preventive measures fail. Identifying key personnel and then training a deputy who knows he will be promoted into his chief's position is one method. Another is the splitting of small departments into two functional units which share responsibilities.

Companies who have their computer and communications departments located in city centres are far more vulnerable than rural sites. The move across town or even across the road is more easy to sell than uprooting six or seven people from Dorset or Gloucestershire.

Computer companies in the country can add the advantage of so-called "green field hand-cuffs".

A route chosen by some US companies to avoid the trauma of losing key staff is the expert system or knowledge database.

Using one or two of a company's specialists they employ a knowledge engineering programmer to create a system that retains information essential to a company function.

Now whether you need 80

Learning to love the chip

There is a stronger breeze of realism concerning the introduction of new technology waiting through the factory and office workforce in Britain than perhaps the Government or the CBI have recognized. The evidence comes from the latest inquiry of the Policy Studies Institute, published today.

It shows an increasingly positive response by employees and trade unions and concludes that opposition to technological change is twice as common in France and West Germany as in the UK. When reduced to statistical terms, a survey of factories using new technology showed that only 7 per cent found opposition from the shop floor, or unions, as a major obstacle.

Conditions were even smoother in offices, where only 6 per cent of organisations experienced a real difficulty of reluctance.

When examined by jobs, more than two in three secretaries, and almost 75 per cent of typists, welcomed the introduction of word processors - still the big growth area in office automation. Apparently, only 4 per cent displayed outright opposition.

On the other side of the coin, microchip technology is linked with an average annual job loss that is equivalent to only one person per factory. The overall total job loss attributed directly to technology is put at 15,000 to 20,000 a year. This rate of job loss accounts for fewer than 0.5 per cent of total employment in manufacturing, and less than one-twentieth of the loss of jobs in manufacturing for other causes.

At first glance this perspective on the British attitude toward technical change might seem, understandably, hard to

swallow, especially as the index of industrial production and other yardsticks for measuring productivity seem stuck firmly in the same groove.

Yet on the evidence, the more common perception of antagonism and a Luddite response to advances in technology can be attributed to the action of a handful of industrial laggards; not the least of those identified are the Fleet Street newspapers.

The rosier picture of better co-operation by employees in Britain than by those of

THE WEEK

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

our European neighbours, may have something to do with the fact that much of British industry and commerce is at a different stage of technological conversion - further behind.

But there are pessimistic notes to be heard in the over-riding tone of optimism. The team who have assembled *Chips and Jobs: Acceptance of New Technology at Work* are experienced hands at interpreting some of the more impenetrable aspects of industrial and economic activity.

The study was divided into three main categories: Michael Fogarty prepared chapters on industrial relations; Malcolm Trevor distilled the Japanese experience; and Jim Northcott examined how different product developments opened applications in each of the key sectors of the economy.

At the risk of stressing the pessimistic side of the report, the warnings which emerge contain crucial lessons. Even if, as always with hindsight, some seem obvious. What might, and certainly should, provoke a furrowed-brow of concern were the cases where opposition from top management, middle management and - sometimes, astonishingly, technical management were to blame for obstruction.

Many other obstacles to the use of new technology were recorded: the recession, the shortage of key skills, the high costs of new product development with hardware, problems with software, problems of compatibility. In fact, the opposition from the people who would be most affected was a long way down the shopping list of hurdles when the time came to implement change.

One reason to believe that the breath of realism in industry is genuine lies in the fact that earlier bouts of euphoria have faded. There is more than enough practical experience to dispel almost romantic visions of a hi-tech work paradise, with high-level work in idyllic conditions.

The authors of this study conclude that while the extent of acceptance so far should bring encouragement, it may not last because it is still the beginning. Second generation products and production processes, in offices as well as factories, will bring greater changes in the nature of work.

● *Chips and Jobs: The Acceptance of New Technology at Work*, Policy Studies Institute, 100 Park Village East, London NW1 (tel: 387 2171).

Australian test bed for IBM's JX

By Kevin Pearson

The forerunner of what could be IBM's next home computer is being test marketed in Australia. The company is selling a Westernised version of a Japanese machine, the JX, for about £1,000.

IBM will not comment on whether the computer will eventually appear in the UK, but if it is, the JX could face heavy competition from the home of cheap PC-compatible machines that are due to appear shortly.

The JX was developed in Japan, and although it has not been as successful as some of those from Japanese suppliers, it has received positive reviews.

Pricing could be the device's downfall

It is based on the same microprocessor family as the PC and uses an operating system which should ensure compatibility with the wide range of available PC software. Behind this surface similarity there are some serious differences. It uses 3½ inch floppy discs or a 5¼ inch drive in a separate expansion unit.

But while most get 720 Kilobytes of data on a disc and some, such as Sony, are working on 2 megabyte drives, IBM only gets 320 Kilobytes. A version with 720 Kilobyte drives has been launched in Japan.

The JX is considerably more sophisticated than the older, ill-fated PC Junior (PCjr) - IBM's first attempt at a home computer. Launched in the US, it was dropped earlier this year after an extremely disappointing performance in the market.

The winners of the UK Computer Press Awards, sponsored by *The Times* and Hewlett-Packard, will be announced tomorrow night at a dinner at Claridges, to be hosted by Selina Scott.

Finalists for the seven awards are:

● Computer Journal of the Year - *Computer News; Personal Computer World; Which Computer?*

● Computer Journalist of the Year (Features) - John Charlton, *Computer Talk*; Clive Coulthell, *Which Computer?*; Pat Sweet, *Freelance*.

● Computer Photographer of the Year (News) - Stephen Arkell, *Computer News*; Tessa Curtis, *Computer Week*; Guy Kewney, *Microscope*.

● Computer Programme of the Year (TV/Radio) - Computers in Control, Radio 4; Micro Live, BBC; Soft Spot, Anglia Television.

● Best Designed Journal of the Year - *IBM Computer Today; Mac User; PC Magazine*.

● Computer Columnist of the Year - Martin Banks, *Personal Computer*.



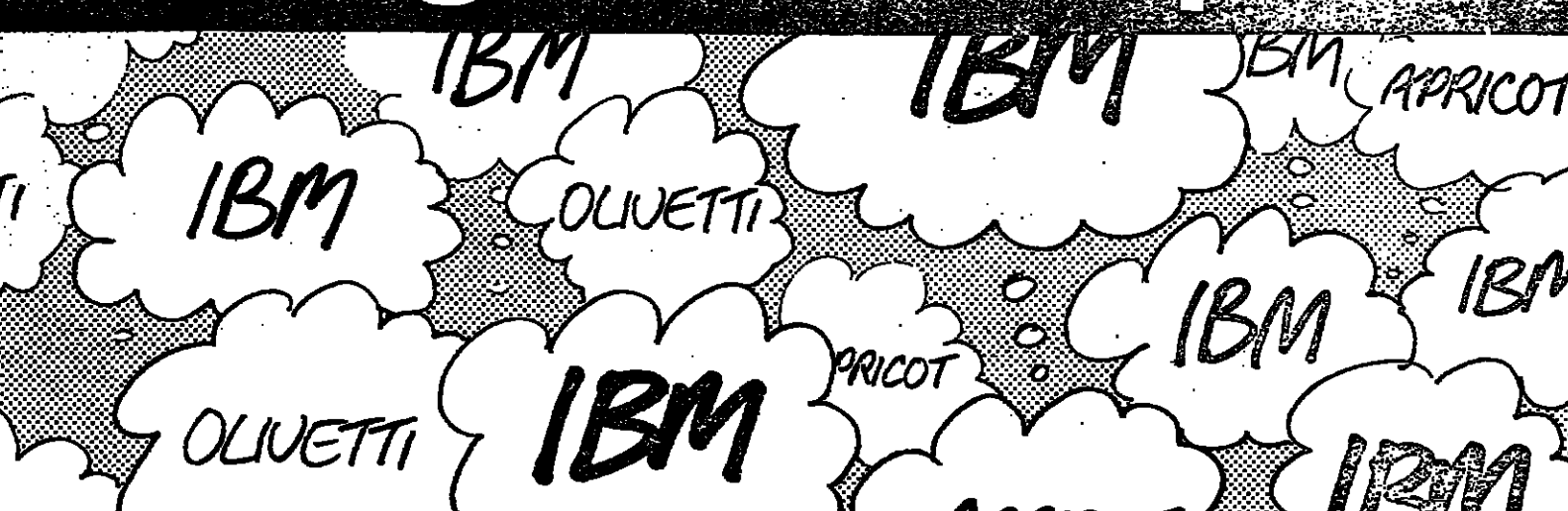
World: David Tebbutt, *Microscope*; David Guest, *PC Week*.

● Computer Programme of the Year (TV/Radio) - Computers in Control, Radio 4; Micro Live, BBC; Soft Spot, Anglia Television.

● Best Designed Journal of the Year - *IBM Computer Today; Mac User; PC Magazine*.

● Computer Columnist of the Year - Martin Banks, *Personal Computer*.

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The whole world on your wrist

By Jay Dyer

Once upon a time, not very long ago, a watch was a little clock on a strap. It told the time, ticked quietly to tell to tell you it was working, and that was that. Solid gold or tin, jewelled or not, all watches were the same, and they did not talk back. That, however, is history.

The grey plastic square adorning this journalistic wrist at the moment is a different beast. The latest creation of Seiko, the Japanese company that has already brought out a wrist television, and going under the striking name of the RC-1000 (whatever happened to the Oyster Perpetual) it tells the time, will display a list of telephone numbers or any other information I care to put in it, remind me to watch Hill Street Blues every Saturday night, beep an alarm up to a year ahead, and tell me the time in New York.

To know all these fascinating facts, of course, the watch has to be loaded, and for that you need a personal computer. Yes there had to be a catch. To load this device you type the information you want into your local user-friendly computer plug a cable into the computer and watch, and hey presto, 80 two-line messages on the end of your arm.



The Seiko RC-1000

mation, diaries, alarms and even a mini version of space invaders if that is your weakness.

It seems that only the inconvenient fact that there are

26 letters in the alphabet, and 26 keys will not fit on a watch has stopped someone trying to put the whole of computer inside one. A calculator is different, however.

I always felt that a calculator was to enable you to do sums without the aid of a pen. Not true. If you've ever tried to get a stubby finger to press only one button at a time on a watch calculator you'll know you still need a pen, to press the buttons.

If you're a jogger you can now get a watch that will take your heart rate to see if you are still alive at the end of your run, and there are the devices that have left all pretence of being a watch behind and just sit where a watch should sit.

American secret servicemen guarding the President have long been famous for talking up their sleeves.

The wrist television took a little longer, and does not really count as though the screen is on your wrist you still need a wire up your sleeve, to a box containing the main part of the works, plus a pair of headphones which also contains the aerial.

All this, of course, raises the problem of how you tell the time. Easy. Forget the wrist and simply look at the clock on your key-ring, ruler, pen, lighter, calculator. Or you could always ask a policeman.

RAC rally races into a hotel lounge

By Frank Brown

This year's 2,200-mile Lombard RAC Rally, which began in Nottingham on Sunday, is the most computerized yet.

The rally's plush hotel headquarters has a computer system which processes and statistically analyses results as they come in from every stage of the event's 65 special stages, and makes them instantly available to officials and the army of journalists on hand to cover what is regarded as one of

the world's toughest motor competitions.

In addition to providing up-to-the-minute information on how every one of the 150 competitors is faring, the system gives VDU screens to results and analyses of all earlier stages, and comments made by competitors on how well they performed at each stage - a facility which has not been previously available.

In earlier rallies results of a

given stage were available on computer only while the stage was in progress. After that, they were transferred to microfiche and manually prepared bulletins, which were time-consuming both to prepare and to search through for a specific item of information.

The new system also relays rally information and urgent messages to mobile printer terminals in the cars of adjudicating officials.

The rally ends on Friday.

COMPUTER HORIZONS/2

How the British hit deadlines

By Richard Sarson

Everyone accuses the British builder of being late on his promised completion dates; and of mismanaging the bricklayers, so that they are either sitting around idle, waiting for the bricks or a crane to turn up, or working expensive overtime, to try to win back the lost time.

It comes as a surprise, therefore, to find that one of our most successful high-tech exports is project management software which helps firms to hit their deadlines. The idea is that instead of taking a wild stab at the length and cost of a project, you break the whole process into steps or individual activities.

You define their sequence and how they inter-relate with other activities, and draw up a network of the project, with milestones and deadlines along its course.

Lay these activities and resources end to end, and you come up with a better idea of when you will get a person man to the moon, how many scientists, computers, rockets, and fuel you will need, and how much it will all cost.

All this can be done by pen and pencil, but it becomes arduous if the project is a large one, a network of 200 or 2,000 activities.

Computers can help, not to decide the shape of the network,

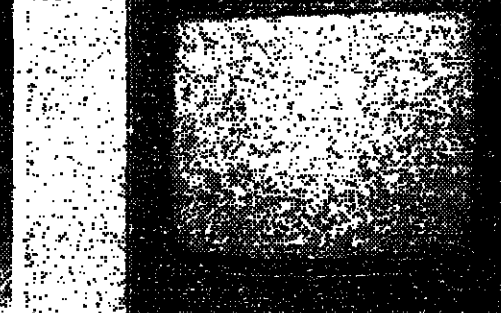
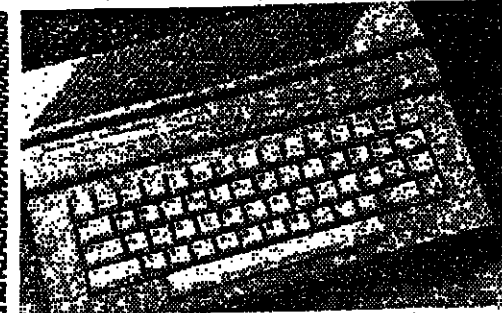
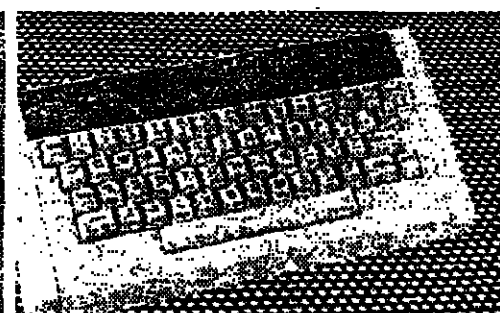
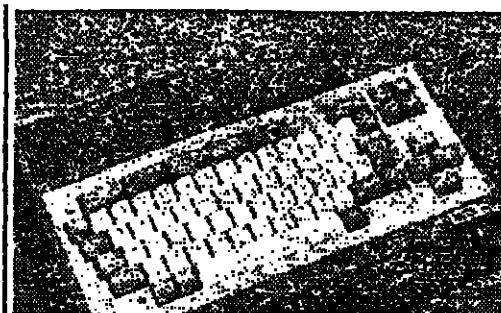
or what resources you have to put in - only you can work that out - but to calculate which of the activities will hold up the completion date if they slip, and which ones are not so important.

"Critical Path Analysis" techniques have been around on large expensive computers for 25 years, but in the last three years, micros have extended its use, from large construction companies and defence establishments, down to businessmen planning to move their office, or do a market survey. Now there are a bewildering number of project management systems for micros.

The most sophisticated ones are British. None were developed by large, established software houses, most of them being the work of small groups of engineers, and many of them in parts of the country not normally associated with computer-technology.

For instance, Microplaner comes from a team in Westbury-on-Trym, near Bristol, and Plantrac from Weybridge. Permaster was designed in Bradford. Hornet is made in Rothbury, a village in the heart of the Cheviots. Artemis was designed largely in Ipswich.

All of these have sold more than 1,000 copies of their programs. Most gratifyingly, all of them export 40 per cent or more of their total sales.



The price should be right for pick of the Christmas crop

By Matthew May

Most home computers are better value for money this year, and high street stores and computer retailers are fervently hoping Christmas will see the return of the home computer boom.

But there is also a sense of caution, fuelled by a determination that they will not be caught again like last year. Having ordered unprecedentedly large stocks the bubble burst and many machines were left on the shelves.

What these products have so far failed to do is to make the transition from glorified games playing machines to other uses that would attract real numbers of adults. However, there is still considerable appeal.

This year home computers are generally cheaper, and some considerably so. The Sinclair QL, for example, is half the price at £199 while others are being offered in package deals that include cassette recorders

and software. Buying a computer by itself, as some purchasers realise only too late, soon requires other purchases unless someone in the family is a genius programmer.

The discounting of old or unsuccessful models means a computer can be picked up for as little as £50 - a price where it may be worth experimenting before investing what could be several hundreds of pounds in a more powerful system and possibly making an expensive mistake.

Home computers have their limitations - ideas of computerised recipes, home accounts or gardening guides are usually cheaper and simpler by more conventional and old fashioned means. It is in entertainment that the real advantage lies - from computer versions of Scrabble and chess through graphic games of annihilation, tortuous adventures and simple educational programs.

There are over 30 home

computers for sale this year, selling with different extras or at different prices depending on the retailer - so it is worth shopping around.

Here are 12 of the most widely available for those looking for their first home computer.

● **Acorn BBC** The widespread use of this micro in schools has ensured a good range of

educational programs are available. But Acorn is behind the times with its pricing, charging a hefty and uncompetitive £469 for the model with 64k of memory, and nearly £500 for a 128k model.

Those looking for a degree of compatibility with the BBC software used in schools should consider the slightly more limited but much cheaper Acorn Electron. The 32k BBC

micro has now been discontinued though old stocks are still available in some shops for about £270.

● **Acorn Electron** A reasonable range of software is available for this micro and it is fairly compatible with that for the BBC. It lacks the expansion possibilities of the BBC but at discount prices, for example £399 including a cassette recorder, it can be a good buy.

● **Amstrad 464** Amstrad has leapt to prominence this year with a range of good micros that include built-in cassette recorders or disk drives and monitors at good prices. In fact, the 464, with built-in cassette recorder at £199 with black and white monitor and £299 with colour monitor, is facing its stiffest competition from another Amstrad computer, the 6128, which for another £100 offers great improvement.

● **Amstrad 6128** If you want a home computer that does more than play games then this offers

the best of both worlds - if you want to spend the money. It includes a built-in disk drive and black and white monitor for £299, and colour monitor for £399, and is equally happy running games or basic business programs, though much business use and you will require the additional expense of buying a printer.

It is worth noting that while many people have bought home computers with the intention of dabbling in word processing or home accounts, the vast majority have ended up being used to play games.

● **Amstrad £256** This is only a home computer in the sense of its price. It will not run games and while more business programs are promised it is currently only suitable for those who have a heavy requirement for word processing - which, at a price of £258, is excellent (See page 28).

● **Atari 800XL** Atari were the pioneers of arcade type games and a wide range of good software is available. Special deals on this micro include one with a cassette recorder at £100, and with a disk drive at £170. The Atari 130XE contains 128k of memory, double that of the 800XL, and costs £170 for the basic unit.

● **Commodore 16** In today's terms the memory of this micro is unacceptably small at 16k and the choice of software is limited. Its failure to take-off has resulted in discount prices down to £50 which might make it a suitable introduction for those interested in simple Basic programming.

● **Commodore 64** Probably the world's best selling micro - now looking a little long in the tooth - there is an extensive and good range of software available. The

price of £199 includes a cassette deck and four games. The Commodore 128 has twice the memory size, but at a price of £270 compares unfavourably with the Amstrad 6128 with its built-in disk drive.

● **Commodore Plus 4A 64K** micro with four poor business programs built-in, and little other software available. It started at £300 but is now

discounted to below £100, at which it may be worth a look for those with minimal business requirements.

● **Sinclair QL** Halved in price earlier this year to £129, sales are said to have picked up. It is supplied with four business packages, with other software limited and expensive, typically at about £15 per item.

● **Sinclair Spectrum A** tried and tested favourite with a wide range of software. The current model has an improved keyboard and one special deal includes a cassette recorder and software for £130. There are stocks in some shops of the earlier model with a rubber pad keyboard which, with discount prices as low as £50, could be an attractive buy.

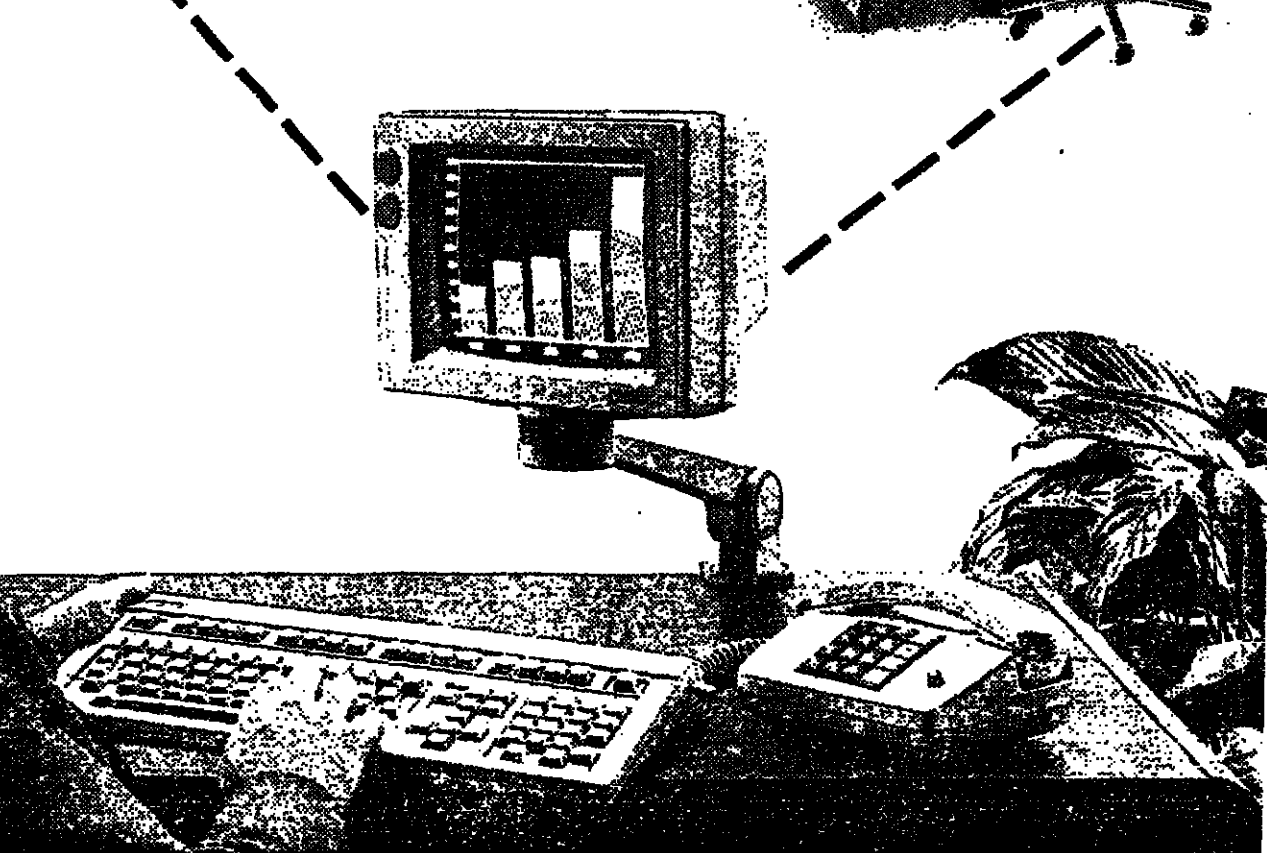
● **Toshiba HX10** One of several Far East micros on sale that conform to the Japanese MSX standard - an attempt to make home computers compatible with each other and run the same programs. MSX has so far failed to take off and some models have been heavily discounted. The HX10 is on sale for about £80, and similar micros by such companies as Sony and Sanyo at £300 offer little more.

● **The proportion of software for home computers that is games-oriented has declined during the past few years though figures from research firm Mintel show computer games still account for more than three-quarters of programs sold. Educational and financial software each account for 12 per cent of sales. Other Mintel research shows 57 per cent of home computer owners have more than six pre-recorded programs while only 4 per cent have none.**

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COMPUTER HORIZONS/3

Dr Clark's million-dollar game

By Roger Woolhouse

THE many-coloured Rubik's Cube rotates in free space on the computer screen. As it twists and turns, it shows a moving shadow on the surface beneath. Suddenly it explodes into separate pieces, tumbling in a multiplicity of three-dimensional positions.

This is computer graphics in a quality which until now has been available only to a select few. Dr James Clark is showing all that.

He says: "The way they are currently doing it is with a graphics terminal that is quite slow, and is connected to an expensive minicomputer or mainframe. What we are doing is making the graphics part much faster for a lower cost."

The leap in value for money is astonishing. Today's conventional computer-aided design systems, offering 3D colour images with which the user can interact, might run out at half a million dollars. The stand-alone workstation with this performance marketed by Dr Clark's company, Silicon Graphics, costs under \$50,000. In just over three years, he reckons the price will be down to \$20,000 (about £14,500). Dr Clark says: "We are making high-end performance available at desk-top prices."

The answer lies, of course, in



Dr James Clark: Giving value for money

the chip. While working on a defence contract at Stanford University in California, Dr Clark designed a highly complex circuit called the Geometry Engine. The world hardly best a path to his door.

Dr Clark reels off the top computer and graphics companies that he spoke to about his better mouse trap - Hewlett-Packard, Digital Equipment, IBM, Tektronix, Apollo.

"They were interested," he recalls, "but as the chip was not yet working, most of them did not fully believe it."

That was in 1981. Stanford University said it would license the chip to Dr Clark if he had a company, so he and his six-strong research team decided to form one. "I scrounged about in the Stanford Business School and found documents which explained how to put together a high-technology business plan."

He won venture-capital backing of close to a million dollars, but not before some fine tuning on his proposals. Dr Clark said: "The investors did not say: 'You guys don't have what it takes'. They would just respond in a cool way."

Things soon heated up. Only four years later, and with three rounds of fresh financing behind it, Silicon Graphics is heading for a turnover of \$50 million. Major uses for the company's workstations are being found in mechanical design, chemical synthesis and chemical modelling, architecture and construction, and flight simulation.

In one application, the US Army is using the system to simulate a tank battle in a realistic war-game. It's a point not lost on Silicon Graphics.

"One of our engineers wrote a dog-fight game," Dr Clark admits. "At five or six in the evening in our company, you can find people playing it."

How to get to grips with software

Q: As a small business we find it hard to evaluate software packages. Demonstration disks are too clever. A course is expensive. Is there any other way?

A: Things are moving slowly to ease this problem, some software is covered by separate "trainer" disks for personal computers. The disks serve the purpose of training people who forget how to do things if they have not used a piece of software for a while. In my case, that means after about four days of doing something different.

They also give a better picture of the nature of the full package than a demonstration disk by itself. The larger dealers are usually able to arrange evaluation sessions with software that is fairly popular. These sessions are not complete courses but are less expensive and may help you. Things are rather more difficult if you want to buy software which is not in the best-selling category, but here you would always want to visit existing users and this may prove an answer.

Q: The price of personal computers seems to have been dropping faster than the costs of installing "machines" to work with, say, four PCs. Is this trend going to continue?

A: I assume that you have in mind some buying options. If there is a genuine need for three or four users to share files for much of the time then a small multi-user machine is probably more economical than linking personal computers. The choice is generally based on the style of software that is to be supported as well as the need to simplify

WORKSHOP

HEDLEY VOYSEY answers questions in this column on business and personal computers. Write to Workshop, Computer Horizons, The Times, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

data sharing. If good applications development aids are what is needed in your business then the choice seems to lie between the more powerful personal computers and a carefully selected multi-user system.

You will find that it is easy to spend £5,000 on a supercharged single user machine. Most of the dramatic drop in single user system prices is to be seen at the most basic level of performance. In effect the basic personal computer market is apparently awash with alternatives and this is leading to price cuts.

The overall picture of falling costs is about the same for all machines with fairly simple "architectures" - to borrow a term from the specialist field of computer design. On a day-to-day basis this general trend is varied by old-fashioned competitive pressures. Electronics factories have built a "mountain" of rudimentary small computers which are being dumped on the market before they are upstaged by more powerful beasts.

Q: What would I have to spend to obtain both a modem for telecommunications linkages

and software that makes it easy to use? I recently watched some users at a business college and I was horrified at the tedious process involved.

A: If you are thinking of using most of the standard personal computers then the answer might very well be about £650 of even more. Much depends on how universal you wish to be in your telecommunications hook-ups and also whether you want the software to work in conjunction with other packages that you may already be using.

But the tedious side of telecommunications links can be overstated and unless you are really rich, you should be pretty sure about the value of the final result before you reach for your cheque book. The British seem to be put off by both the bother and the expense of using telecommunications as a natural feature of personal computing. Our transatlantic friends seem to start with the view that they must "go by wire" and then adjust their methods to suit their natures and depth of purse.

Q: I am 37 and use computer software packages. I have also done a fair slab of programming in BASIC. But I am sure that my grip on programming is tenuous. Is there a course which would round out my ability to come to terms with "new technology"?

A: It is not yet a criminal offence to be undereducated in computer programming skills. The polytechnics offer an opportunity to use some evening study if you think you can stand the pace. You might also think about scouring your area for a lively computer club. Bright ideas for using computers may make slogging away at programming more fun and there is usually a wide range of helpful advice on hand.

You might find that you need nothing more than a change of programming language, a good book on a new language, and a few helpful acquaintances to dig you out of the sticky patches that do happen to most people, from time to time. Remember that you seem to be in better shape than most of your age group.

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COMPUTER HORIZONS/4

A system to hold up the bank robber

A visit to your local bank to pick up some cash could take considerably longer if a novel computerized cash dispenser catches on. Used by bank employees the new unit, designed by the West German computer company Siemens, with the aim of reducing the number of bank robberies.

Few bank hold-ups apparently last much longer than three minutes and so the dispenser has been deliberately designed to delay issuing cash after a bank teller's request for several minutes. The delay ranges from two to five minutes depending on the amount requested. Notices would be displayed in banks to point out that cash can only be given out after a delay and making it clear that bank staff cannot open the dispenser themselves without further lengthy delays.

Popular appeal

As home computer games have exhausted most of the variations on a theme possible with the half a dozen original ideas of space invaders, adventures, etc. software distributors have found that one route to success can lie in

COMPUTER BRIEFING

connecting programs with popular films, books or pop groups. The latest entrant comes from software firm Domark with a computer game based on the violent horror film Friday 13th.

Though this film has a restricted cinema showing, excluding those under 18 years old, such computer games are typically bought by the much younger age group of 7 to 14 years old. Newsagent multiple John Menzies - has already objected to the lurid cover for the game which Domark says "features an ice hockey mask in a pool of blood with a knife through the eye-hole". Menzies has said it will accept the game but only with a different cover.

'Labor' saver

As the size of personal computer memories increase so does the opportunity to have some form of spelling checker included with a word processing program. Such products normally include a dictionary of several thousand words and will check the spelling of words typed into a document pointing out any it considers to be mistyped.

The first problem customers faced was an over eagerness by suppliers to get products out in Britain which led to some of them importing spelling checkers from America without amendment. British users were not amused to be continually told that they were misspelling such words as labour and colour and refused to accept the Americanized alternatives of labor and color.

The latest problem to surface comes from American reports of a word processing system at General Motors which objected to the word businesswoman. Surely, said the computer, the author must mean businessman. The system also objected to other words such as chairman. An embarrassed IBM, which supplied the software, is understood to have now made the program a little more liberated.

Desk library

Advertising agencies need more than creative ideas and catchy slogans. They need information: product statistics, market forecasts and articles from trade journals. One young advertising man, Danny Wagner, 22, found he was spending 20 per cent of his time identifying the right marketing reports, and having to send messengers all over the place to pick them up. So he has built a computerized library, which advertising executives, PR people and marketing staff can access from microcomputers on their desks.

He calls the service MAID, Market Analysis and Information Database. It went live last week, and has already won two large advertising agencies BBDO and Unilever as customers. The information is provided by four market research publications, The Economist Intelligence Unit, Euromonitor Publications, Jordan Information Services and Market Assessment Publications. The system is cross-referenced, so that if you ask for information on "computers" on your keyboard, you will get on your screen an index of all reports on computers from all four information sources.

There is also a "newline" digest service culled from the trade press, and access to what is known in advertising as "MEAL" Advertising Expenditure Data.

Spread the good word about processors

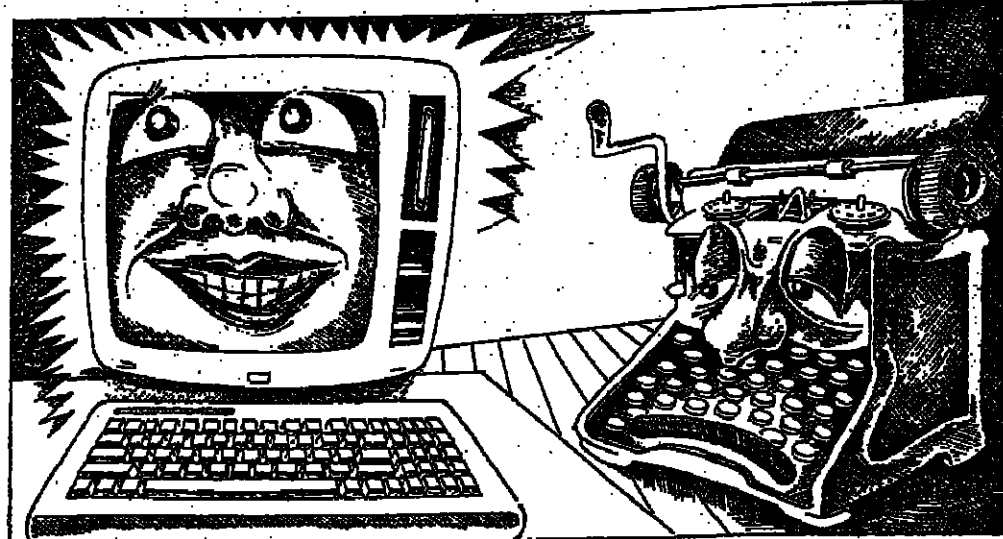
By Lee Rodwell

I have resisted the temptations of word processors for some years now, typing letters, features and even a 60,000-word book on my aged but reliable Adler manual typewriter. Converts to computers demonstrated their machines to me with enthusiasm, but though I admired - and envied - their skills and flirted a little with the new technology, I held back from the final commitment.

There were two main reasons for this. The first was the cost. Most people advised me that it would be necessary to spend more than £1,500 to get a worthwhile word processor. The second was the time involved learning to work the machine itself. As a busy freelance juggling the demands of work and childcare I doubted whether I could afford to spend hours getting to know a computer, instead of making money writing features.

Then Amstrad brought out the PCW 8256. For £459 you get a complete word processing system - keyboard, monitor with built-in disc drive, printer and Locoscript disc. At that price it seemed worth a closer look, particularly since Amstrad claimed the system was easy to use.

The most daunting thing about it turned out to be the User Guide - a feature it has in common with most computers. After an hour dutifully working my way through the examples I



got bored and put the handbook to one side. It was more fun experimenting and, unlike other systems I have encountered, it was fairly easy to work out how to do what you wanted using the command keys on the keyboard, the information listed at the top of the screen and the choices in each menu, instead of having to memorise complicated codes.

Amstrad is the first to admit that the PCW 8256 was made with the small business user in mind, and Locoscript is designed to cope with the kind of work that would normally be done by a secretary - letters, memos, reports, invoices. It was easy to cut and to

change copy, switch paragraphs around, deleting others. It was comforting to know that if I erased a complete document by mistake it might not be lost forever. All the files you initially create are put into a state of limbo and stay on the disc until the room they are taking up is needed for a new document. Unfortunately, the computer does not jettison these files on a first-in, first-out basis, but on length.

Once I got the hang of using the keyboard (which felt like the keyboard of a portable electric typewriter), remembered to use the backspace and forward keys instead of the space bar and found the page in the User Guide which listed short-

checked with Amstrad it admitted this had been an oversight in the software and promised to send me the new version.

I also had to change my way of working. When I use a typewriter I rarely do rough drafts, but tend to stare at what I have already written while I compose the next paragraph. Staring at a typewriter sheet is one thing, staring at bright green characters on a black screen is another. After suffering a particularly bad case of writer's block I happened to glance out of the window and saw that all the white lines on the road were pink.

Printing is easy and the quality acceptable. The printer is not as noisy as some I've heard and takes about a minute to print a full A4 page. You can use either single sheet or continuous reel paper but you can't instruct it to print the same document twice. So if you want more than one copy of a document you have to be there to push the buttons. But if you print out one document while you edit another, you edit together.

Now, that I have used the Amstrad I don't want to go back to my typewriter. However, I have reservations about its ability to cope with something as large as a 60,000 word book, particularly since this was not what it was designed for.

But for £459 (or £642 for the version with an extra disc drive) it seems a gamble worth taking. See page 26

Portable buffs do it on the plane

By Geoff Wheelwright

The plane decends quietly into Heathrow airport, with most passengers looking distractedly out of the window in the hopes of perhaps catching a glimpse of a waiting relative in the arrivals lounge. But there is one person, hunched over his lap, with hands moving quickly over something that looks about the size of a hardback book. Is it a book, is it a sales report? No, it is a portable computer - and it is being used the way every manufacturer dreams.

That picture is still pretty much a dream, while some people do use portable computers in planes and on buses, they are among a perhaps over-enthusiastic minority.

Some airlines even forbid the use of portable computers in-flight - although there is not yet any definitive evidence that they have any effect on in-flight instrumentation. Whether underground passengers or airline companies like it, the age of the so-called lap-top portable computers is here - without any evidence that there is really any demand for it.

Battery-operated portable computers with built-in liquid crystal displays 'on-board' word-processing, communications abilities have now become so widely available that you can pick one up for less than £300. And there is every indication that this price will continue to drop - as more companies move into the portable computer market.

Already most of the major Japanese manufacturers - including Epson, Toshiba, Sharp and NEC - have offered one form of battery-operated lap-top computer or another, and a good deal of them have been able to use computer software written for the IBM PC in the hope that the portable computer can not only act as an on the road stand-in for the desk top personal computer - but can replace it.

Suppliers of such machines argue that large scale organizations with employees who travel a lot will benefit from having

the power of a desktop system in the space of something that fits inside a briefcase.

There seems to be four key elements to winning the portable computer market:

- Making the machine software compatible with the IBM PC (a relatively easy task)
- Making it use the same disk drive storage system as the IBM PC (not such an easy task in a portable machine)
- Providing a readable LCD screen
- And making the machine light, small and battery-operated.

Many portable computers come close to this specification, but either end up needing mains power, using non-IBM type discs, or producing a screen that is unreadable in all but the best light conditions.

Ironically, Compaq, the company which made its fortune selling a mains-operated portable computer is not planning to enter the lap-top market. The company says it has several times produced a prototype of such a machine, but that the technology was not yet available at the right price to produce a computer with sufficient appeal.

DATA PROTECTION

DATA USERS' IN THE FUTURE LINE?

A major city law firm indicated recently that more than half their clients had said to get to grips with the implications of a highly complex new law - The Data Protection Act 1984.

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HONG KONG

COMMERCIAL/FINANCE SOLICITORS

Baker & McKenzie require solicitors to work in the commercial or finance sections of their Hong Kong office.

Applicants should have at least 3 years post admission experience in either of these fields of practice.

The position offers excellent career and remuneration benefits, and the possibility of working with or in other offices of the Firm.

All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

Applications in writing with full curriculum vitae should be sent to the Recruitment Partner,
Baker & McKenzie, 14th Floor,
Hutchison House, Hong Kong.

COMPUTER APPOINTMENTS

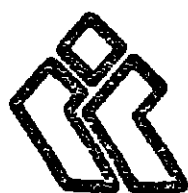
Contract
Recruitment
Consultants

£25-30,000 p.a. + Car + Benefits

We are now firmly established as one of the U.K.'s top companies in the contract computer recruitment market. Further planned expansion and diversification presents an outstanding opportunity for two ambitious, proven professionals to join our highly successful team. The requirement is for people to further develop our existing client base within a large geographical area that offers considerable potential. The successful candidates will demonstrate good interpersonal skills, a tenacious attitude, total commitment to their and our future success and have experience of either the computer or recruitment industry. Knowledge of the real time software engineering market could prove an advantage for one of the positions.

The benefits package is based on a realistic business plan derived from a basic salary and excellent profit scheme with no upper limit. We have always utilised sophisticated computer and office automation techniques and are currently installing a new IBM System 36 to replace and upgrade our existing bespoke software. Our environment therefore provides the opportunity for people to realise their full potential in this demanding role.

Please write with appropriate details to: Mr. M.A. Waite, Intercity Consultants Ltd., International House, World Trade Centre, London E1 9UN.



intercity consultants

International House, World Trade Centre
London E1 9UN. Tel: 01-488 9701

Solicitors

Costain Group PLC, the parent company of an international group of companies engaged in all forms of construction and development, has vacancies for two experienced Solicitors or Barristers based in Bracknell and Maidenhead.

The position at Bracknell will be for the day to day responsibility for a major arbitration.

The position at Maidenhead will involve a wide and interesting variety of contractual and commercial matters with responsibility for particular operating companies.

The successful applicants should be lawyers who, though professional in approach are seeking a greater degree of personal involvement and a more practical interpretation of legal work. Business acumen, initiative and an ability to liaise at all levels within the Group are of primary importance.

A knowledge of the standard building and civil engineering forms of contract would be an advantage.

"WORLDWIDE
CAPABILITY IN
CONTRACTING,
MINING,
HOUSING AND
PROPERTY"

The department is young and progressive and the Group has a substantial legal staff based at a number of locations close to London which offer considerable opportunity for career development.

An attractive salary, range of benefits (including a company car) and excellent working conditions are offered.

Please write with full career details, including present salary, or telephone for an application for employment form to:

Personnel Manager,
Costain UK Limited,
Costain House,
Nicholson's Walk, Maidenhead,
Berks SL6 1LN.
Tel: (0628) 23300 ext. 330.

STANLEY WASBROUGH
BRISTOL

We have vacancies for two experienced Solicitors in the field of

CIVIL LITIGATION

One should have some experience of contentious work, particularly in the fields of personal injury and insurance.

There are attractive prospects for the successful candidate.

The other vacancy would suit a more recently qualified Solicitor with some commercial and personal injuries litigation experience.

We have a substantial litigation practice, and our clients expect speed and a high standard of service from our litigation team.

We are committed to growth, and Bristol is a business centre of growing importance as well as an attractive place to live and work.

Please write with c.v. to Nigel Sommerville,
Stanley Wasbrough, 13 Berkeley Square,
Bristol BS8 1HD.

BARLOW LYDE
& GILBERTCommercial
Litigation

We are looking for young Lawyers who wish to specialise in commercially based litigation.

Specialist experience is not essential but successful applicants are likely to have an interest in the fields of reinsurance or intellectual property law.

Applications, which are welcomed from candidates about to complete their articles, should be sent together with a full curriculum vitae to:

Richard Dedman or Colin Croly,
Barlow Lyde & Gilbert,
1 Finsbury Avenue,
London, EC2M 2PJ

ADLERS

Seeks an ambitious & enthusiastic recently admitted solicitor to join its commercial litigation team.

Applications with full c.v. to:

Ian Pope
ADLERS
22-26 Paul Street,
London EC2A 4JH.
Tel. 01-481 9100

QUIS CUSTODIET
IPSOS CUSTODES?

The answer is The Law Society. Or more strictly the Professional Purposes Department. It's the largest department of The Society, and deals with maintaining professional standards and advising the profession on matters of conduct.

To enable us effectively to implement the extension of powers which will be granted by the Administration of Justice Act, we're looking for more experienced Solicitors to join the Department. It's a career that'll get you heavily involved in creative thinking on issues vital for the future of the profession, keeping you in contact not only with members of the Society at all levels, but also with the profession at large, various external bodies and the very people whom the profession serves - the public.

The specific purpose of the post will be to prevent professional difficulties by advising the profession, using remedial sanctions when necessary and proceeding with disciplinary action if ultimately called for.

This would involve you in a whole range of duties from processing complaints and reading, identifying and researching professional conduct issues, to attending Professional Purposes Committee meetings to recommend any action to be taken, and proceeding with that action.

You'd also be responsible for providing guidance to solicitors in answer to enquiries about professional ethics, standards and duty.

To take on this work you must have at least 2-3 years' experience in private practice (preferably 4 years or more). Some experience in conveyancing and probate would be an added advantage. You'll also need sound judgement and some understanding of the problems of the profession, as well as good investigative and analytical skills.

The starting salary, up to £16,000 p.a. will depend on experience, and there are excellent career prospects, leading to greater challenges, higher grades and top salaries.

If you'd like to be involved in determining the future of the profession and you're looking for a creative and responsible career, send comprehensive CV, detailing particularly your current/most recent position and salary, to Joyce Collinson, Personnel and Training Manager, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL. We plan to start interviewing in two weeks' time.

THE LAW SOCIETY

CORPORATE
LAWYERS

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & FAR EAST

Coward Chance are one of the major City law firms involved in a wide range of business law, with overseas offices in Brussels, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Middle East.

We are seeking solicitors or barristers willing to spend some time abroad after a period in our City office.

If you have a good academic record, commercial flair and analytical skills, we would like to hear from you. Experience in international financial, commercial or shipping work would be an asset.

We can offer you a stimulating working environment, a high competitive salary and first class career prospects.

Please write with details of your career to Peter Rooke

Coward Chance

Coward Chance, Royex House, Aldermanbury Square,
London. EC2V 7LD.

LEGAL
EXECUTIVE

Exploration Logging (Services) Limited is a service company located in Windsor which provides services to the operating companies of Exploration Logging in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Exploration Logging provides geological engineering services and equipment to the petroleum industry worldwide, and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Baker International.

We now have a requirement for a Legal Executive to assist the Company Legal Counsel in the reviewing and drafting of contracts and other related documentation.

Applicants should have experience in commercial law and ideally some background knowledge and experience in the oil industry. The successful applicant will be hardworking, conscientious with (following a brief training period) an ability to work with minimum supervision. Word processor skills are also desirable.

This position requires particular attention to detail, as well as good communication skills. An attractive Company benefits package is available and salary will be commensurate with experience and ability.

Please write giving full personal and career details to:

F. J. Kinslow III, Legal Counsel,
Exploration Logging (Services) Limited,
Shirley Avenue, Vale Road,
Windsor, Berkshire SL4 5LF.

Gabriel Duffy Consultancy

ENTERTAINMENT £16,000+

Our clients are seeking an outstanding lawyer to handle a variety of matters pertaining to the world of entertainment. The work will include production and distribution within the film, music, and publishing industries and candidates should have good experience in each of these areas of the law. The right applicant will have good university degree and sound knowledge of his subject including the ability to handle detailed drafting. Excellent prospects for the right candidate and a salary of commensurate with age/experience/ability.

CONVEYANCING

Our clients are presently recruiting: (a) a solicitor with 2/3 years p.a. to specialise in development conveyancing. Candidates should have excellent academic results, a sound knowledge of their subject and the ability to relate well with high profile clients; and (b) a recently qualified lawyer or legal executive to handle a number of residential conveyancing matters. Both positions offer excellent salaries and the opportunity to work for one of the major firms in the City.

Claire Wiseman - Legal Division
17 St Swithin's Lane, Cannon Street, London EC4N 8AL
Telephone: 01-623 4225

DEPARTMENT OF LAW & ADMINISTRATION

There are 2 vacancies in the Legal Division of this large multi-racial London Borough in which the Council and its staff share a commitment to equal opportunities.

Articled Clerks (A/213) (2 posts)
Grade: Scale 1/3. Salary: £4,473 - £6,756 plus
£1,017 L.W. and supplements

Two articled clerks are sought to complete a team of four in the Council's extremely busy Legal Division. A wide variety of work and interesting and valuable experience, including advocacy, is available. The appointments are on two-year fixed-term contracts and applicants must have passed in at least 5 heads of the Law Society's Part II examination.

Application forms and job descriptions from the Personnel Division Room 1 Brent Town Hall Annex, Kings Drive, Wembley, Middlesex HA8 9BR returnable 15th December. Telephone 01-903 0371 (24 hour Answerphone service) Reference numbers must be quoted.

London Borough of

BRENT Brent is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Job seekers welcome.

SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL
Secretary and Solicitor's DepartmentASSISTANT SOLICITOR
Salary Grade PO4 - £12,168 - £13,308

The Secretary and Solicitor is seeking an enthusiastic and capable Solicitor to fill the above post which has recently been created within the Department.

The successful applicant will assist a busy legal section in providing a wide range of legal advice, but with particular reference to housing and planning matters.

The Postholder will be expected to deal with such litigation as arises in this context and to attend committee meetings as required.

Application forms can be obtained from the Personnel Officer, Civic Centre, Folkestone, (CT26 5TJ) ext. 210 and should be returned by 15th December 1985.

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS ☎ 01-837 0668

EXPERIENCED CONVEYANCING ASSISTANT

Scale 5-S01 £8577 p.a. - £11295 p.a. inclusive
Required in the Legal division of the Department of Law and Administration. This is a temporary post with a contract for six months initially, with the possibility of extension to a further six months. The successful applicant must have a sound knowledge of general conveyancing practice in the Local Government or not and the ability to handle a volume of varied and interesting work without close supervision. Salary depending on qualifications and experience.
Application forms (numbered reference number LA/14/501) available from the Personnel Division, London Borough of Hammersmith, City Centre, London, W14 9JH. Telephone 01-837 0668 (24 hour answering service available). Closing date 11 December 1985.

AMERICAN ATTORNEY
London Branch Office of large Wall Street law firm seeks American Attorney in London with up to 3 years experience for an associate position in practice focusing on international Corporate and Entertainment Law.
Please write to:
Box 1601 R The Times

COMPANY LAWYERS

We are looking for intelligent, self-motivated and hard-working lawyers to join a busy team in our fast expanding Company department.

Applicants should be between 25 and 28, have a good academic background, with 2 to 3 years experience as a solicitor, preferably with a City firm.

The variety of work is stimulating and demanding, involving client contact at Board level; and the rewards, professionally and financially, are very attractive.

Career prospects are excellent.

If you would like to find out more, please write sending a complete CV to Michael Charteris-Black, 14 Dominion Street, London EC2M 2RJ.

SIMMONS & SIMMONS

LITIGATION LAWYER

INSURANCE

We wish to recruit a solicitor or barrister of proven ability to join our expanding Litigation department. The department engages in a wide variety of contentious commercial and financial business for corporate and other clients, based in this country and abroad.

Applicants should have significant admitted experience in the field of insurance and re-insurance work.

We look for a good academic background. Enthusiasm, flexibility and ability to work under pressure, individually and as part of a team, are also essential qualities.

Career prospects are excellent.

If you would like to find out more, please write sending a complete CV to Michael Charteris-Black, 14 Dominion Street, London EC2M 2RJ.

SIMMONS & SIMMONS

ROWE & MAW

We have now moved to our new offices in Blackfriars Lane, EC4.

We require

COMMERCIAL LAWYERS

to join a well established team advising pension funds, life insurance companies and a variety of other financial institutions. The work is challenging and rewarding and there are good prospects for career development.

Energy, commitment and an enquiring mind are essential but previous experience is not.

Please write in confidence to:

STUART C. JAMES, at
20 Blackfriars Lane, London EC4V 6HD.

LINKLATER & PAINE

Pensions Lawyer

Linklaters & Paines, a major firm of City solicitors, are looking for a young lawyer to join their team advising clients on all aspects of company pension schemes. The work is varied, creative and challenging and has an increasingly international outlook.

The job needs someone with good powers of analysis, commercial common sense, toughness and the ability to get on with others. Experience of pensions work would be useful, but is not at all essential.

Pay and conditions will be very competitive. Prospects are highly attractive for those who show themselves to be "high fliers".

Please apply with full curriculum vitae and quoting reference 56 to:

Mrs A.J. Dickinson, Linklaters & Paines,
Barrington House, 59-67 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7JA.

LINKLATER & PAINE

BAKER & MCKENZIE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWYERS

Baker & McKenzie are seeking commercial lawyers who have recently qualified or have been admitted for up to four years to specialise in intellectual property and the law relating to information technology. A particular interest or technical qualification in electronics or computer sciences would be highly desirable but not essential.

An attractive remuneration package will be offered to successful applicants.

Applications in writing with full curriculum vitae should be sent to Blair Wallace,
Partnership Secretary, Baker & McKenzie,
Aldwych House, Aldwych, London WC2B 4JP.

United Biscuits

Two Lawyers

As part of the expansion of its Legal Department the United Biscuits Group wishes to recruit two lawyers to work at its Headquarters in Isleworth.

Conveyancer

The position requires a solicitor with at least four years admitted experience of all aspects of commercial conveyancing. There is also an opportunity to undertake some franchising and commercial work.

Advocate/Litigator

A recently qualified Solicitor/Barrister is needed to join the Litigation Section. Some advocacy experience is essential for Industrial Tribunal work and also a good working knowledge of High Court and County Court procedures. In addition the applicant will have an opportunity to be involved in many other aspects of the Company's legal work.

The salaries will be competitive and other benefits are those to be expected from a major commercial group.

For an application form, please write to Mrs R. Haq, Legal Department, United Biscuits (UK) Limited, Grant House, PO Box 40, Syon Lane, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 5NN. Tel: 01-560 3131 Ext. 4395.

ASSISTANT SOLICITOR £11,604 - £12,513

Applications are invited from Solicitors with litigation and advocacy experience to undertake a variety of interesting legal work in a busy office. Must be able to work with the minimum of supervision and be responsible for a heavy case load. Local Government experience is not necessary. Those interested may discuss the post with Andrew Wilcock on 061-480 4949 ext. 3249.

Further details and application form may be obtained from the:

Director of Administration,
Town Hall, Stockport SK1 5XE.
Tel: 061-480 4949 ext. 3263.
Closing date: 12th December 1985

STOCKPORT

WEST SURREY

Haslemere Practice of four office firm requires:
Solicitor for Probate Trust and Tax
Partnership prospects. Must be capable of handling heavy work load.

Assistant Solicitor for General Legal Work
Recently admitted applicants considered.

Please apply in either case with full curriculum vitae to:

P. R. Jones Esq.,
BURLY & GEACH
8 Swan Street, Petersfield,
Hampshire GU32 3AE.
Telephone (0730) 62401 daytime
or (0730) 62254 evenings

IDS EMPLOYMENT LAW SERVICE LABOUR LAW RESEARCH

Opportunity for a Senior Research Lawyer - starting salary not less than £11,200 - to join a team writing on employment law for an information service used by Personnel Managers, Lawyers and Tribunals. Applicants should be over 30, professionally qualified and should have studied employment law as a speciality. Recently qualified Lawyers with an industrial background would be welcome.

We also require an employment law specialist to do research and write for our journal during the temporary absence of one of our Lawyers. Salary not less than £9,145.

Apply in writing with full details of education and career to date to: R E Arnold, Income Data Services Ltd, 140 Great Portland Street, London, W1N 5TA.

PART TIME CONVEYANCING

Small friendly City firm with very interesting and varied work load seeks a part time conveyancer to do domestic and some commercial conveyancing 2½ days per week or 4 hours per day.

Please send your C.V. to Stephen Lloyd, Bates, Wells & Braithwaite, 20 Old Bailey, London EC4A. Tel: 01-236 9081.

LITIGATION SOLICITOR

Rapidly expanding WCI practice require highly competent litigation solicitor with considerable experience, who is prepared to work under high pressure on general commercial litigation matters. Salary commensurate to experience. Definite partnership prospects to the right applicant.

Ref GM, Box 1301 The Times

CHESTERFIELD MAGISTRATES' COURT

Appointment of Trainee Court Clerk

This is an ideal opportunity for a newly qualified solicitor/barrister who wishes to pursue a career in the Magisterial Service. Applications may also be considered from law graduates, but, regrettably articles of clerkship cannot be offered.

Salary Scales:	Law Graduate	£5,328 - £6,753
	Solicitor/Barrister	£6,549 - £8,753

Application forms may be obtained from Mrs Briggs or Mrs Yearl (Chesterfield 78171) and should be returned by the 11th December, 1985.

G. A. FOWLER
Clerk to the Justices,
The Court House, West Bars,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

SOLICITOR Property/Finance £22,000 neg

The European subsidiary of a major international company, the Greyhound Group of Companies is active in property finance and large ticket leasing and has a vacancy for a young solicitor to join its legal department in Mayfair.

The successful candidate is likely to have a minimum of 4 years relevant post-admission experience in the preparation of documentation of commercial property finance transactions, preferably gained in a lender's environment. He or she should be self-motivated and capable of working independently.

Initial salary £22,000, negotiable, to include company car. Benefits include top scale BUPA, non-contributory pension scheme, free life insurance and participation in the company's bonus plan.

Please send full CV and details of current salary to:

Miss P. J. Bailey
The Greyhound Group of Companies
9/10 Grafton Street, London W1X 3LA

Tax Technical Editor

We have a vacancy for a technical editor to carry out tax research and writing in connection with a variety of publications as well as some commissioning and editing. The successful candidate will be enthusiastic, energetic, commercially minded and have the ability to work well both under pressure and as part of a team. Previous practical experience in company law is highly desirable. The post offers a unique opportunity to develop an expertise in all aspects of company law. Salary by negotiation.

Apply with C.V. to:

Mrs D. Gale, Personnel Dept.,
Butterworth & Co (Publishers) Ltd.,
88 Kingsway, London WC2B 6AB.

Butterworths

YOUNG LITIGATOR with multi-

regional law firm, 200 City Road, London EC1Y 1AA. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. West Coast Consultants, 01-242 1261.

LEGAL EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATOR - 200 City Road, London EC1Y 1AA. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. West Coast Consultants, 01-242 1261.

POTENTIAL PARTNER - Under 35. Non-competition specialist for Essex. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. West Coast Consultants, 01-242 1261.

THAMES VALLEY - General practice solicitor. Small firm. Under 35. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. West Coast Consultants, 01-242 1261.

MATERNITY SPECIALISTS for Southampton, Brighton, Hove and Portsmouth. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. West Coast Consultants, 01-242 1261.

MATURE SOLICITOR 45-50. Maturely qualified. 200 City Road, London EC1Y 1AA. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. West Coast Consultants, 01-242 1261.

LEGAL EXECUTIVE - 200 City Road, London EC1Y 1AA. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. West Coast Consultants, 01-242 1261.

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SOLICITORS (2) - 200 City Road, London EC1Y 1AA. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. West Coast Consultants, 01-242 1261.

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LITIGATION SOLICITORS MANCHESTER

Brian Thompson & Partners seek solicitors to undertake substantial personal injury litigation and work in the field of employment law. The successful applicant will have some experience and a particular interest in such work and will be able to undertake it with a minimum of supervision. Competitive salaries and other benefits, according to age, ability and experience, will be available to successful applicants.

Written applications including C.V. should be made to G. W. Carter.

Brian Thompson & Partners
Quay House, Quay Street
Manchester M3 3HX

Dawbarns SOLICITORS

WISBECH AND KINGS LYNN

We urgently need a young

HIGH CALIBRE SOLICITOR

to specialise in

MATRIMONIAL & CIVIL LITIGATION

This will be a challenging job in a pleasant part of the world. We will pay a top salary and offer early partnership.

We also want a bright

GRADUATE ARTICLED CLERK

to assist and rejuvenate our ageing senior partner.

Apply to William Morris
Dawbarns, 1 York Place, Wisbech
Cambs PE13 1EA

COMPANY LAW

Jordans, the company and information services group, are seeking to recruit a newly admitted solicitor to join their London Office. The post encompasses dealing with a varied range of company law matters in a small but busy corporate law department, together with involvement in the development of new services and products. The successful applicant should be enthusiastic, energetic, commercially minded and have the ability to work well both under pressure and as part of a team. Previous practical experience in company law is highly desirable. The post offers a unique opportunity to develop an expertise in all aspects of company law. Salary by negotiation.

Apply with C.V. to:

Mrs L. Laidie
Personnel Manager
Jordans & Sons Limited
Jordan House
Brunswick Place,
London N1 6EE.

BRIGHTON SOLICITORS

Requires young conveyancing solicitor with drive and ambition. 2-3 years qualified preferred but consideration given to newly admitted solicitor with good articles. Salary negotiable with partnership prospect for the right applicant. Write with full CV to:

Mr C. A. Denson,
Fidlingfold Square & Port,
3 Pavilion Parade,
Brighton, East Sussex.

BROMLEY AREA

Progressive firm in the Bromley area seeks newly admitted Solicitor for Conveyancing and Probate work. Salary negotiable. Please contact: P. J. GIBLIN, ORPINGTON T1621

YOUNG LITIGATION SOLICITOR - 200 City Road, London EC1Y 1AA. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. West Coast Consultants, 01-242 1261.

PERSONAL INJURY - 200 City Road, London EC1Y 1AA. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. West Coast Consultants, 01-242 1261.

LEGAL EXECUTIVE - 200 City Road, London EC1Y 1AA. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. West Coast Consultants, 01-242 1261.

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HARROGATE NORTH YORKSHIRE

Potential COMPANY/ COMMERCIAL PARTNER

Long established firm, at present four partners, seeks Solicitor with two to three years relevant experience since admission to develop and expand existing commercial opportunities from good client base. This is a new appointment and the successful applicant who will increasingly take full responsibility for company/commercial work within the firm must be of partnership calibre and expect to achieve equity partnership status within two to three years.

Please write with C.V. to:
TITLEY, PATER-CROW & FIDEN
4 North Park Road, Harrogate
North Yorkshire, HG1 5PA
Ref: Mr Blackham

COMPETENT LOCUMS

Available Countrywide for Solicitors with staff emergencies.

01 248 1139

Short and long term emergencies covered for all legal aspects.

ASA LAW

Locum Specialist for Solicitors

CONVEYANCING SOLICITOR

Salary negotiable c.£12,000

Fast growing practice in W11 require a Solicitor, at least 2 years admitted and ideally with some knowledge of local conveyancing.

TEMPLE ASSOCIATES,
Legal Recruitment Consultants,
353-472

SEAN DAVID AND CO

SOLICITOR

for general work with a litigation focus. Small practice, good client base, excellent prospects. 2-3 years experience. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. West Coast Consultants, 01-242 1261.

ALL SOURCES with following: 200 City Road, London EC1Y 1AA. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. West Coast Consultants, 01-242 1261.

CONVEYANCING - 200 City Road, London EC1Y 1AA. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. West Coast Consultants, 01-242 1261.

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LEGAL LA CRÈME ☎ 01-837 1234 extn.7677 or 01-278 9161

McGuinness Finch Solicitors

Star Wars to Strauss at the Schools Prom



Young musicians from (left to right) Bearsden, in Glasgow, Wardle, in Greater Manchester, and South Glamorgan at the Albert Hall yesterday for the Schools Prom

Cardinals reaffirm Vatican reforms

Rome (AP)—Roman Catholic bishops assessing the impact of the Second Vatican Council's reforms are pressing divergent views in a "completely free" atmosphere, but there can be no going back on those reforms, two influential cardinals reported here yesterday.

After the ceremonial opening on Sunday, 165 participants in an extraordinary synod got down to business and heard Mgr Godfried Danneels, the Cardinal of Brussels, sum up how the Church has fared in the turbulent years since the end of the Second Vatican Council in 1965.

At a news conference explaining the work of the two-week gathering, Cardinal Danneels and Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, one of the synod's three co-presidents, emphasized that the council reforms would continue to guide the Church.

"The council remains valid, completely valid... It's impossible to regress," Mgr Danneels said, offering his views on the general thrust and meaning of the council reforms. "The implementation of the

council reforms exceeded great hopes that many of the members of the council had at that time," Mgr Krol added. "The reality is, even from a juridical standpoint, the synod cannot change, overturn, renege or amplify the Ecumenical Council."

Asked repeatedly if a battle was shaping up between conservative and progressive bishops at the synod, Mgr Krol replied: "It's not a boxing match we are conducting. It is not a conflict."

The council fashioned crucial changes in liturgy, ecumenism, seminarian education, religious life and Church government, recasting the Church's image from an unchangeable monolith to an institution ready to modernize its structures.

Mgr Danneels said the synod participants were struck by the Pontiff's appeal for frank discussion.

In his keynote speech to the synod, Mgr Danneels summed up the responses the Vatican has received from bishops' conferences around the world on the state of their churches.

New hope in Lloyd's inquiry

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

The Fraud Investigation Group, a special unit set up by the Director of Public Prosecutions, is "hopeful" that it will make a breakthrough in two alleged Lloyd's fraud cases.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, said in a written Commons reply last night that the group (FIG) had been created specifically to investigate the affairs of two Lloyd's syndicates, PCW and Alexander Howden.

It has been alleged that the PCW syndicate, named after Mr Peter Cameron Webb, was the centre of a £39 million fraud and that the Alexander Howden case involved a loss of \$55 million (£37.6 million).

Mr Brian Sedgmore, the Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, last week called for a shake-up of the DPP's office after he had suggested that the PCW files had been "lost, mislaid or put in drawers to gather dust."

Brain tissue implanted in rabbits

Moscow (Reuters)—Soviet geneticists have successfully implanted embryonic human brain tissue into rabbits, making the animals respond more promptly to light and smells, Tass, the Soviet news agency, said yesterday.

Tass said biologists from the Academy of Sciences had cut a tiny hole in the rabbits' brains under anaesthetic and, using a thin pipe, injected them with brain tissue from human embryos.

Mrs Fatima Ata-Muradova, said: "We found that the rabbits' reactions to light and smells was considerably higher after the implantation of the human brain embryos."

Tass said Mrs Ata-Muradova believed it would be possible to perform brain transplants to correct mental and neurological defects in humans.

The brain tissue used in the operations, which were performed at the academy's Institute of General Genetics, came from human embryos which had failed to develop.

Sogat deal ends strike at Mirror

Continued from page 1

Brenda Dean, general secretary of the union, said the 2-1 vote by her members to strike if redundancy notices were reimposed. Mr Maxwell reserved the right to take whatever action he thought fit for the financial viability of the company.

The accord was agreed between Ms Dean and Mr Maxwell after six hours of talks at the headquarters of Mr Maxwell's British Printing and Communications Corporation in the City. The deal further illustrates print unions' increasing awareness that job losses in Fleet Street are inevitable.

Ms Dean said last night that the pact did not differ from a deal achieved on Sunday night, except that there was a clause promising no victimization.

After leaving yesterday's meeting, she said: "We have returned from the law of the jungle to the law of the negotiating table."

Mr Maxwell said he was completely satisfied with the outcome.

About 700 staff involved in

the printing of MGN titles at Thomson Witherby Grove, Manchester, are being urged to work normally until Mr Maxwell sets up his proposed colour printing plant later next year.

The Manchester printworkers are due to become redundant at the end of the year after the failure of talks in which Mr Maxwell was to buy the old Manchester printing complex.

Union officials said earlier during the negotiations between Mr Maxwell and Ms Dean that the management had introduced the Manchester element into negotiations on Sunday night. That led to the breakdown in the discussions and the nominal print run for *The Mirror* on Sunday night.

At one stage during the negotiations yesterday it was understood that Mr Maxwell suggested a guarantee that Sogat employees at Manchester would be taken on by his company nine months after Thomson Witherby Grove closed. In the event that he was unable to adhere to that deadline, there was to be a financial settlement with Sogat.

Letter from Assam

Border war with the bureaucrats

India has had three wars with Pakistan, but the border states are open to foreigners. India has had one war with China, but that frightened it so badly that not only the border state, Arunachal Pradesh, but also all the other states of the north-east of India are closed.

What was once Assam has now been Balkanized into the states of Meghalaya, Tripura, Manipur and Nagaland and the union territories of Mizoram and Arunachal. The state of Assam is reduced to the strip north and south of the River Brahmaputra ("son of the creator").

But the whole north-eastern region often thinks of itself as separate from the rest of India — which the locals like to call "mainland India".

Foreigners can go to these places only if armed with "restricted area permits" (RAP), which are technically available for certain functions, but which in fact are hard to come by, thanks largely to the incapacity of the Indian bureaucracy for delay.

There is, for example, in Assam itself a cheerful young Cambridge don, helping the University of Gauhati to set up English teaching courses. The British Council, who brought him over, were told he would "of course" be allowed an RAP, but he still has not got one.

Instead, he is followed around all day by a doleful policeman, charged with making sure that he is never out of his sight. Occasionally a change in escort will bring a little relief, he will, for instance, not be surveyed while in his hotel of an evening.

The Prime Minister was quite firm about it, when I put to him the question of access to Assam by foreign correspondents. "I don't see why we keep you out," he said. Now that the peace accord is being implemented there he has given instructions for us to be allowed in.

It's not as easy as that, of course.

I managed to get past the special branch inspector at the airport, by flashing my press card. He had heard that we did not need the RAP, but the news had not penetrated very far into the state.

When I drove over to the district headquarters town of Nowong, I had no qualms about going to the local police superintendent to interview him about the security situation in his district, now that elections are coming.

Superintendent N. Ramachandran, a Keralaite from the Indian Police Service, gave me a pleasant enough interview but did not believe me when I assured him that I did not need a RAP. He had not heard that correspondents were allowed in, and he was dumfounded if he was going to let them wander about his district unrestrained.

He put a young policeman in my car while I went off to a political rally and while he made further inquiries. But when I returned to Nowong intending to hasten off on another assignment, a posse of police swept me into the police station.

Inspector J. U. Ahmed, a devout Muslim with a dyed beard, sat in his office while he went for evening prayers. His staff made notes about my passport and my press card.

Then I was taken to the town's circuit house, where visiting government officials are accommodated, and piled with tea and mosquitoes.

I fumed for five hours there while Mr Ramachandran was out on his rounds, and no one else would let me go.

A telephone call to Jindan, correspondents in the capital, Gauhati, brought me some comfort. The BBC stringer said she had contacted the senior, but he was in the Florida Ministry, and he said I could go. But no one would let the police that.

There was no answer from the British High Commission in Delhi. It was a Sunday.

Eventually Mr Ramachandran returned, and after some further puzzled chat, "Do not be so sorry," he was urged — he agreed to call the Home Office himself.

While he was away, some further delay, while he summoned an officer to help me on my way, and the officer had to requisition a jeep. But at least I was free to go.

Michael Hamlyn

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal Engagements

The Queen holds an Investiture, Buckingham Palace, 11.

The Duke of Edinburgh, senior fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering, presents the MacRobert Award, Buckingham Palace, 10; and as honorary fellow, presents the Plastics and Rubber Institute's Prince Philip Award, Buckingham Palace, 10.30; later, as Patron and Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, he attends a lunch hosted by the Variety Club, Inn on the Park Hotel, W1, 12.45; as honorary life member of the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers, he presents the Dairy Farm Landscape Conservation Competition awards at the NatWest Tower, 25 Old Broad St, 6; and later, as President of The Central Council of Physical Recreation, he

attends the council's 50th anniversary reception, Stock Exchange, EC2, 6.30.

The Prince of Wales, Duke of Rothesay, President, Scottish Business in the Community, attends the annual meeting of the Governing Council, Caledonian Hotel, Edinburgh, 10.30; and later visits community based housing associations in Glasgow, arrives 13 Gowanhill St, 2.10.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, British Red Cross Youth, attends the preview of the 1985 City Red Christmas Market, Guildhall, 6.45.

The Duke of Gloucester opens the second phase of the Latchmere Leisure Centre, North Battersea, 11.15. The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron, attends the annual meeting of the Foundation for the Study of Infantile Deafness, Forbes House, Halfin St, W1, 6.

Princess Alexandra attends a

Service of Thanksgiving at Christ Church, Spitalfields, E1, 6.35.

The Duke of Kent, as vice-chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, opens a new electronics factory in Blythe for Chrysler at Holdings, 11.15; and then visits cellars in Northumberland, 2.30.

Exhibitions in progress

Crafts for Christmas: Portland Gallery, High Street, Southwold, Suffolk; Mon to Sat 9 to 1 and 2 to 5.30, closed Wed and Sun (ends Dec 21).

Visions of Africa: photographs by Patrick Sutherland, Norwich School of Art Gallery, St George's Street, Norwich; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends Nov 30).

Painters: Five Painters: Vivien Callender, Paul Gough, Freya Purdie, Terry Shaw and Laurence Wood, Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery, Priestgate; Tues to Sat 12 to 5 (ends Nov 30).

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending November 17

BBC1

- Eastenders (Thu/Sat, 8.30pm)
- Eastenders (Tue/Thu, 8.30pm)
- Eastenders (Wed, 8.30pm)
- The Noel Edmonds Late Late Breakfast Show, 14.40pm
- Only Fools and Horses, 14.00pm
- Bob's Full House, 13.30pm
- Worries (Wed, 12.30pm)
- Julia Brown, 12.15pm
- Coronation, 12.45pm

ITV

- Coronation Street (Mon), Granada, 10.00pm
- Coronation Street (Wed), Granada, 10.00pm
- Full House, 10.00pm
- Miss World 1985, ITV, 12.55pm
- Crossroads (Tue), Central, 10.15pm
- Wish You Were Here, 12.45pm
- The A-Team (Tue/Thu, 12.15pm)
- Worries (Wed, 12.30pm)
- Emmerdale Farm (Tue), Yorkshire, 12.00pm
- Minder, Thames, 12.55pm

Channel 4

- Brookside (Tue/Sat, 6.45pm)
- Brookside (Wed/Thu, 6.45pm)
- Man About the House, 4.25pm
- Seven Days to Noon, 3.50pm
- Eastenders (Tue/Thu, 8.30pm)
- Only Fools and Horses, 14.00pm
- Bob's Full House, 13.30pm
- Worries (Wed, 12.30pm)
- Countdown (Wed), 7.00pm
- Worries (Wed, 12.30pm)

Channel 5

- Brookside (Tue/Sat, 6.45pm)
- Brookside (Wed/Thu, 6.45pm)
- Man About the House, 4.25pm
- Seven Days to Noon, 3.50pm
- Eastenders (Tue/Thu, 8.30pm)
- Only Fools and Horses, 14.00pm
- Bob's Full House, 13.30pm
- Worries (Wed, 12.30pm)
- Countdown (Wed), 7.00pm
- Worries (Wed, 12.30pm)

Roads

Water and West A419: Temporary lights on the A419, locally strong, Gloc; single line traffic, avoid if possible. M4 Lane closures on both carriageways between junctions 21 and 22 (Chesham). M5: Various lane closures on both carriageways between junctions 24 (Bridgwater) and 28 (Cullompton); some continuing over weekends; delays expected.

The North M6: Work on central reservation between junctions 32 and 33, Lancs. A49: Construction of temporary bypass S and N of Tarporley, Cheshire. A6120: Severe delays on Leeds outer ring road, West Yorkshire, at Tongue Lane junction, at peak hours.

Scotland: M8: Various lane restrictions and carriageway closures between junctions 3 (Livingston) and 6 (Newhouse). M74: Southbound carriageway closed between junctions 4 and 3 (Hamilton/Motherwell/Larkhall), surface repairs.

Information supplied by the AA

Weather

A cold NW to N airstream will persist over all areas.

6am to midnight

London, SE, central S, SW, central N England, Midlands, Channel Islands, S Wales: Mainly dry, bright or sunny showers; wind NW moderate; max temp 10°C.

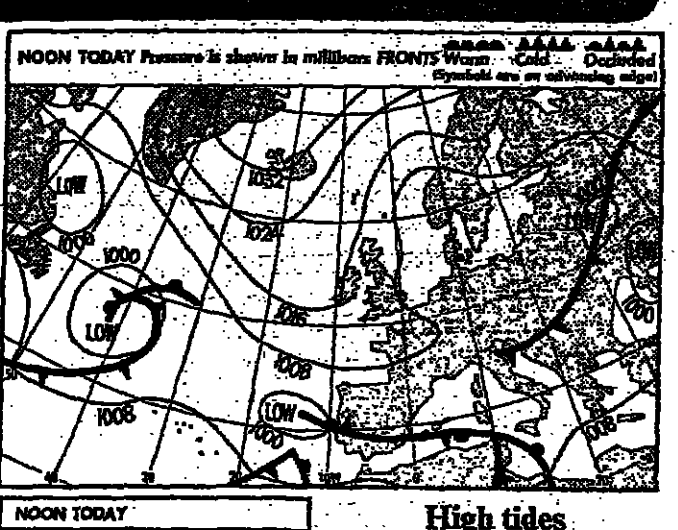
East Angles, E, NE England: Windy showers especially near coast, bright or sunny intervals; wind NW moderate or fresh becoming N later; max temp 9°C.

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, S of Lake, SW Scotland, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Windy showers, a few bright or sunny intervals; wind NW becoming N moderate; max temp 7°C.

Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow: Partly a few windy showers, sunny intervals; wind NW moderate or fresh becoming N later; max temp 9°C.

Abertawe, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Snow showers, heavy at times, over hills, areas with moderate accumulations of snow and with drifting; sun intervals; wind N fresh or strong; max temp 3°C.

Continuing cold with further snow showers especially in the N and E, more severe with sleet or snow in the SW later on Thursday.



High tides

Location	AM	PM	MT
London Bridge	1.03	6.12	1.33
Abbeville	12.15	5.38	12.45
Amsterdam	1.02	6.12	1.33
Belfast	10.18	1.18	10.21
Birmingham	1.02	6.12	1.33
Bristol	1.02	6.12	1.33
Cardiff	1.02	6.12	1.33
Edinburgh	1.02	6.12	1.33
Glasgow	1.02	6.12	1.33
Harwich	1.02	6.12	1.33
Liverpool	1.02	6.12	1.33
London	1.02	6.12	1.33
Manchester	1.02	6.12	1.33
Medan	1.02	6.12	1.33
Portsmouth	1.02	6.12	1.33
Reading	1.02	6.12	1.33
Sheffield	1.02	6.12	1.33
Southampton	1.02	6.12	1.33
Swansea	1.02	6.12	1.33
Torquay	1.02	6.12	1.33
Wolverhampton	1.02	6.12	1.33
Wrexham	1.02	6.12	1.33

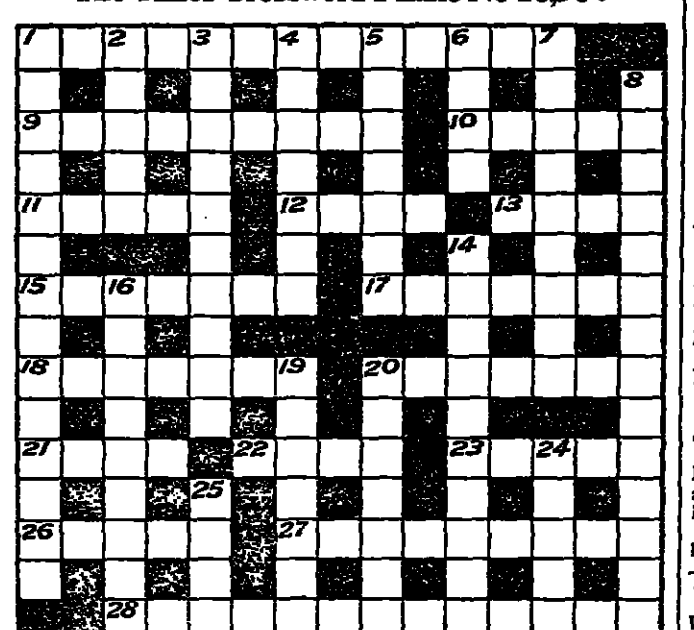
Around Britain

Location	Sun	Wind	Temp
East Coast	2.4	7.45	7.45
London	3.0	7.45	7.45
South Coast	2.4	7.45	7.45
Wales	2.4	7.45	7.45
Scotland	2.4	7.45	7.45
NI	2.4	7.45	7.45

Abroad

Location	Sun	Wind	Temp
Amsterdam	1.02	6.12	1.33
Birmingham	1.02	6.12	1.33
Bristol	1.02	6.12	1.33
Cardiff	1.02	6.12	1.33
Edinburgh	1.02	6.12	1.33
Glasgow	1.02	6.12	1.33
Harwich	1.02	6.12	1.33
Liverpool	1.02	6.12	1.33
London	1.02	6.12	1.33
Manchester	1.02	6.12	1.33
Medan	1.02	6.12	1.33
Portsmouth	1.02	6.12	1.33
Reading	1.02	6.12	1.33
Sheffield	1.02	6.12	1.33
Southampton	1.02	6.12	1.33
Swansea	1.02	6.12	1.33
Torquay	1.02	6.12	1.33
Wolverhampton	1.02	6.12	1.33
Wrexham	1.02	6.12	1.33

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,904



ACROSS

- An obliging partnership, but with no clerical benefit (5,8).
- Pantomime sweetheart's double found in bed (9).
- A Doonee no end cut up (5).
- Letters that a royal messenger produced (5).
- Having been horizontal in the road, we hear (4).
- Marx lacking nothing in good taste (4).
- Circuitous journey for a Cockney pair (7).
- Drink like a sponge (7).
- Nothing in the river could give me this ironic expression (7).
- Bully-boy in psychotic state for lack of drink (7).
- Measure for admission of a bishop (4).
- Fierce medico unreasonably disliked by Brown (4).
- Meet with ruin, perhaps, rounding the Cape (5).
- Junior barrister put on circuit (5).
- Nothing left in silicon product, hence crash (9).
- Policy adopted by large schools (13).

DOWN

- Conveyancing for the ordinary man (7,7).
- Polar spring, maybe (15).
- Hetical movement of one small lord (10).
- Converged by degrees (7).
- Old silver coin is a mark, showing precision of detail (7).
- They are described as sound boots (4).
- Globe-fish for the dweller down here (9).
- Wealthy trader from Morocco perhaps (8,6).
- Counsel's strange domination (10).
- Am I a toxic disaster? It's self-evident (9).
- Philosopher's fitted jacket (7).
- Her co-star in opera brought the house down (7).
- Hot stuff in a cold climate, we hear (5).
- Wood-notes heard in a sea-side walk (4).

Anniversaries

Births: William Cowper, Berkeleyside, Herefordshire, 1731; William George Armstrong, Baron Armstrong of Cragside, inventor, Newcastle, 1810; Sir Aurel Steia, archaeologist and explorer, Budapest, 1867.

Deaths: John McAdam, inventor, survivor of road, Moffat, Dumfriesshire, 1836; Adam Mickiewicz, poet, Constantinople, 1855; Coventry Pamore, poet, Lymington, Hampshire, 1896; Cyril Connolly, critic, London, 1974.

The Great Storm: 1984, Nov 26-27, 1705 over 5,000 lives were lost, and damage in London was estimated at £2m.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Opening of debate on motion to approve Anglo-Irish agreement.

Lords (2.30): Debate on motion to approve Anglo-Irish agreement.

Christmas post

Christmas presents for needy people will be delivered free of charge, in a scheme launched by the Post Office yesterday in conjunction with TV-am and the Lions Club Charity.

Parcels wrapped for posting containing a new gift, toys, clothing, or tinied food — must be handed into a main post office, where they will be accepted without charge, addressed to: TV-am Caring Christmas, C/o PCO Manager.

The pound

Bank 30p 30p
Gold 3.20 3.20
Swiss 1.50 1.50
Belgian 36.00 36.00
French 6.50 6.50
German 1.30 1.30
Italian 1.36 1.36
Spanish 165.00 165.00
Japanese 160.00 160.00
US\$ 1.50 1.50
Yen 160.00 160.00
Mark 1.30 1.30
Scandinavian 1.30 1.30
Other 1.30 1.30

Lighting-up time

London 4.20 pm to 7.00 am
Birmingham 4.20 pm to 7.00 am
Manchester 4.20 pm to 7.00 am
Preston 4.20 pm to 7.00 am

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: 10°C (London); lowest day temp: 4°C (Preston); highest night temp: 1°C (London); lowest night temp: -1°C (Preston).

THE TIMES
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se of 26%
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